№2
Mitsuru Hattori
SANKAREA
undying love

SANKAREA

2

MITSURU HATTORI

THE SANKA FAMILY

Sanka Aria

The current director of the Sanka Girls' Academy. She might be Danichiroh's wife, but their marital relationship seems to have grown thoroughly distant.

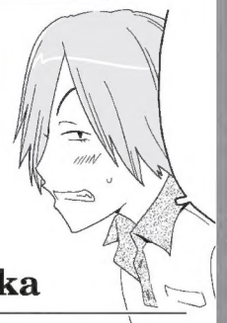
Sanka Danichiroh

The head of the Sanka family, which is famous for founding the private Sanka Girls' Academy. He shows an abnormal fondness towards his only daughter, Rea.

CHIHIRO'S FRIENDS

Mogi

He's got a timid personality that completely matches his appearance.



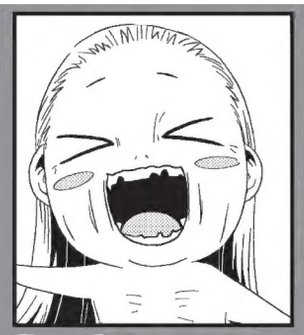
Yasutaka

He is easily excitable and constantly wants to get closer to the young ladies of Sanka Girls'.

STORY

The summer breeze carries the fragrance of hydrangeas. When his cat dies, Furuya Chihiro, a boy with a bizarre affection for zombies, becomes obsessed with bringing him back to life. He meets Sanka Rea, a girl deeply troubled by her father's rules, and the two attempt to complete a mysterious elixir together. However, Rea, who has incurred her father's wrath, drinks the poisonous elixir out of despair... and the next day, she falls from a cliff and dies! But, as it turns out, the elixir works. Rea becomes a zombie, and is miraculously revived!! And so Chihiro's dream of life with a zombie girl becomes reality.

THE FURUYA FAMILY

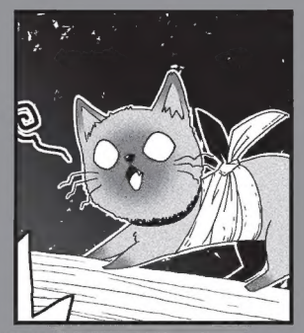


Grandpa

The most mysterious organism (?) in "Sankarea." He somehow seems to know about the "reanimation" phenomenon, but... could he really be the person holding the key to what comes next?

Furuya Mero

A calm and collected first-year middle school student, she presides over the chores in the mostly male Furuya household. A real Japanese-style girl, she reads the Heart Sutra for fun and is able to wear both traditional cook's clothing and the white robes of the dead in a stylish manner.



Bub

A cat that Chihiro brought home a long time ago. He was hit by a car and killed, but the elixir Chihiro and Rea made brought him back to life!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Furuya Chihiro

A first-year student at Shiyoh Public High School, he's an unusual boy who has loved zombies ever since he was small. His pet cat's death triggered an exciting (?) zombie experience of his own. His family runs Shiryohji Temple.

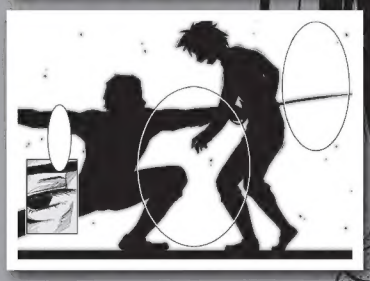
Saohji Ranko

Chihiro's cousin and childhood friend, she's one year above him in school, and a second-year student at Sanka Girls'. A perky and energetic girl, her bountiful bust leaves the boys all excited. Her nickname is "Wanko."

Sanka Rea

A first-year student at the private Sanka Girls' Academy. Neat and lovely, she's been a well-bred young lady since birth. She was supposed to have died trying to escape her controlling father... but she's returned to life as a zombie girl!

MITSURU HATTORI presents



PLEASE TREAT MY BODY CAREFULLY FROM NOW ON.

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SANKAREA ANECDOTES
PAGES 111 & 148

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SANKAREA 2

5 SO IF YOU'RE A ZOMBIE... THEN...

✦ ✦ LA MORTE VIVANTE ✦ ✦

REAA !
SKR
huff
huff
WAIT !
SKR
SKR
SKR
WAIT, REA...!
SKRR
I'M SO GLAD ...
YOU'RE ALIVE...
huff
huff
huff

WHEN YOU FELL FROM THAT CLIFF, I THOUGHT... I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
BUT... YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD, AREN'T YOU...? COME.
COME ALONG AND WE'LL GO TO THE HOSPITAL TOGETHER ...
RRUMMBBLLL
Y...
...IS SOME-THING THE MATTER ?
... YOU'RE ...
GRIP

Y...
YOU HAVE... NO PULSE ...?!
IT'S AS THOUGH YOU WERE...
DRIP
D-DEA ...
DRIP
RRUUMMBBLLL
...!!
Tee hee ...
THAT'S CORRECT ... I'M DEAD.
AND THANKS TO FURUYA-KUN'S ELIXIR...
...I'VE BEEN REBORN LIKE THIS...

BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
AND ALL BE-CAUSE ...
BUMP
...I'M NOT HUMAN ANYMORE.
BUMP
BUMP
SPLASH
SPLISH
T... THANKS TO HIM, YOU SAY ?!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ...?!
WAIT !
DON'T LEAVE ME...
MY REA ...
SPLASH
SPSH
NO ...
I AM NO LONGER YOUR DAUGH-TER...

twee

twee

...DID THIS HAPPEN ...?

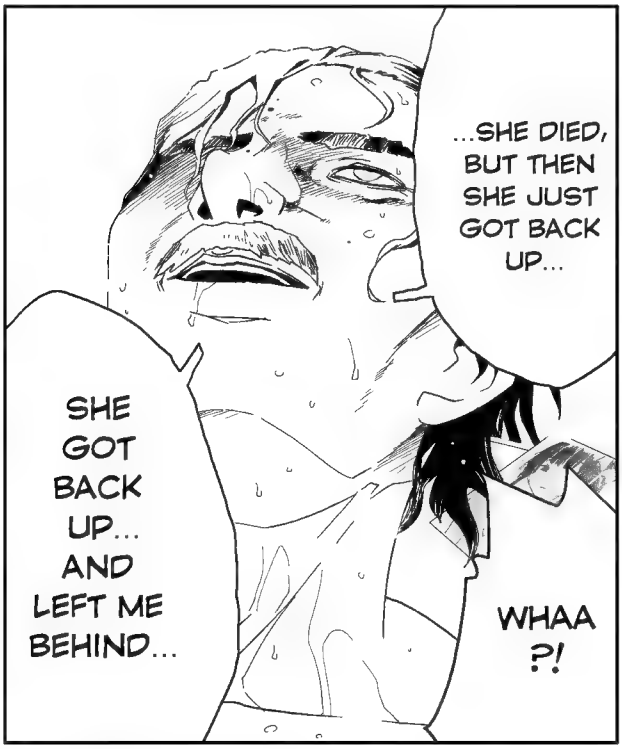
HOW ...

POP

THE BATH-ROOM ?!
HE HAS... BEEN IN THE BATH-ROOM SINCE YESTER-DAY...
THUMP
THUMP
OH... WEL-COME HOME, ARIA-SAMA.
WEL-COME HOME.
WHERE'S DANI-CHIROH-SAN?!
HUH? NO WAY! REA-SAMA ?!
IT'S TRUE.
THUMP
Shhh!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
Whisper whisper
...SO WAS SHE AT A HOST CLUB ALL NIGHT AGAIN ?
SEE, DANICHIROH-SAMA WON'T EVEN PAY ATTENTION TO HER...
...AND GO WORK IN THE GARDEN OR SOME-THING !!
YOU, STOP HANGING AROUND HERE...
WHAM

mutter
mutter
YOU!
WHAT IS THIS ?!
THEY'RE SAYING THAT REA HAS RUN AWAY FROM HOME?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU KNOW THIS COULD RUIN ME AS DIRECTOR !!
WOBBLE
DO YOU KNOW WHERE REA IS?!


...SHE DIED, BUT THEN SHE JUST GOT BACK UP...
SHE GOT BACK UP... AND LEFT ME BEHIND...
WHAA ?!

WHAT?! WHO IS THAT?!
FU... RUYA...

PERHAPS SHE MAY BE WITH THAT BOY, THAT SHIYOH HIGH STUDENT NAMED FURUYA...

FURUYAAA!!
SPLOOSH

THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S HIM... THAT BOY MUST HAVE TRICKED REA...
GRIP...
THAT BOY IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS EVIL...
FU ... RUYA ...

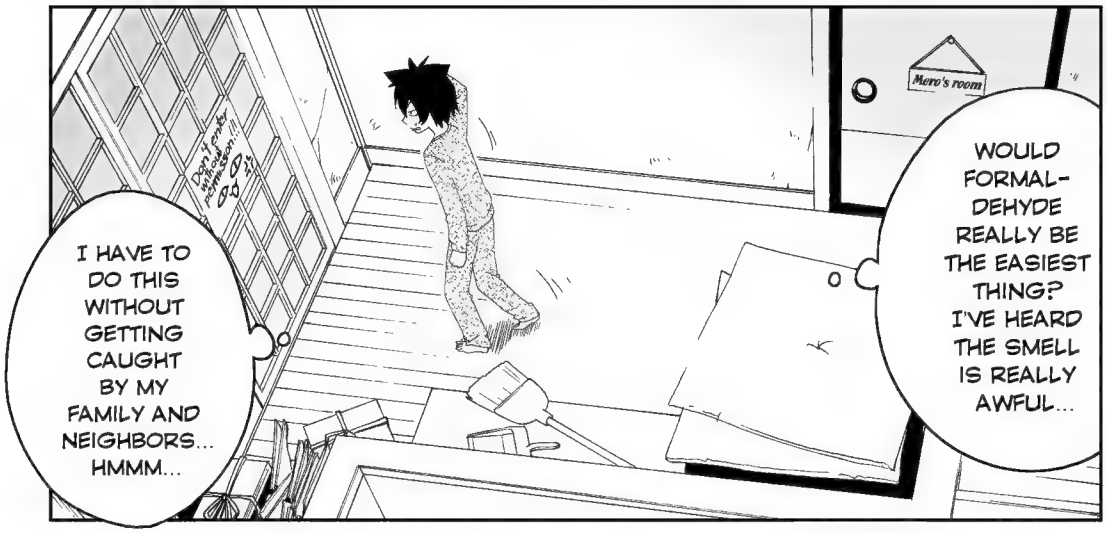
REA...
DRIP
DRIP
...JUST YOU WAIT.
RUMBLE

BAM
SWISH
Hmph, at least you're nice to look at.
I'LL RELEASE YOU FROM THAT MONSTER...
...AND CLEANSE YOU ONCE MORE...
Ohh... He's losing his reason...
...BOTH BODY AND SOUL !!

Around the same time, at the Furuya residence...
NMMHHHooo
...ABOUT HOW TO PRESERVE CORPSES?
A BOOK...
OH... IS THAT SO...?
I mean, what kind of first-year middle schooler are you?
I JUST LENT IT TO A CLASSMATE THE OTHER DAY, BUT...
WHAT MIGHT YOU NEED THAT BOOK FOR, BROTHER?
南無阿弥陀仏
四年二組 隣谷萌路
BLINK
YEAH!! YOU WERE READING IT A WHILE AGO, RIGHT? I WANT YOU TO LEND IT TO ME...
OH, YOU MEAN THE DOCUMENT ON EMBALMING*?
...YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY.
UM, NOTHING, IT'S FINE... SEE YOU...
rub rub
BLINK BLINK

SCROLL: Namu Amida Butsu
- Furuya Mero, class 4-2

NOTE: *A preservation method for dead bodies.


Mero's room
WOULD FORMAL-DEHYDE REALLY BE THE EASIEST THING? I'VE HEARD THE SMELL IS REALLY AWFUL...
I HAVE TO DO THIS WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT BY MY FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS... HMMM...

VOOM
...BEFORE HER RIGOR MORTIS ENDS...
CLATTER
...I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO PRESERVE REA'S BODY...
LOOKING AT HER LIKE THIS, SHE JUST SEEMS LIKE SHE'S SLEEPING ...
tweet
twee twee twee

HEEEY! CHIHIRO! MERO! WAKE UP ALREADY AND GET TO THE MAIN HALL!
AW, CRAP !
TODAY WE'VE GOT WORK !!

GRAB
I'M NOT SURE WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING...
IF I LEAVE HER IN BED, WE'LL GET BUSTED AS SOON AS SOMEONE OPENS THE DOOR. I'LL MOVE HER TO THE CLOSET.
...
Nnh
...
YOUR RIGOR MORTIS WILL PROBABLY END BY TONIGHT, SO PLEASE JUST STAY RIGHT HERE.
Sorry it's so tight.
GASP
GRRMMM
GLIDE...

...
nh.
C... COULD SHE BE HUNGRY ?!
W... WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW...? HER STOMACH ?!
CLATTER
SMACK
THUMP THUMP
DAD! I'M COMING !
... WHEN YOU CAN MOVE AGAIN, OKAY ?
I... I SEE... SO I'LL FEED YOU SOME-THING...
RISE
TAP TAP
THUMP THUMP THUMP
MY HOME IS ALSO A (VERY POOR) TEMPLE.
EVERY DAY THAT WE HAVE OFF FROM SCHOOL, THEY MAKE US CLEAN THE TEMPLE BUILDINGS.

DAMN IT...
...THIS IS NO TIME FOR THIS STUFF...
ZOOM
FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP
BUB JUST DIED, AND YOU'RE ALREADY ...
Mero told me.
...I HEAR YOU'RE TRYING TO ADOPT ANOTHER CAT?
KEEP FROM MOISTURE
SUN DRY
?!
Head priest of Shiryohji
Furuya Dohn (44)
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, CHIHIRO ...
WHAT KIND OF CRAZY TALK IS THAT...?
I'M TELLING YOU, BUB CAME BACK TO LIFE!!
NO, DAD !!

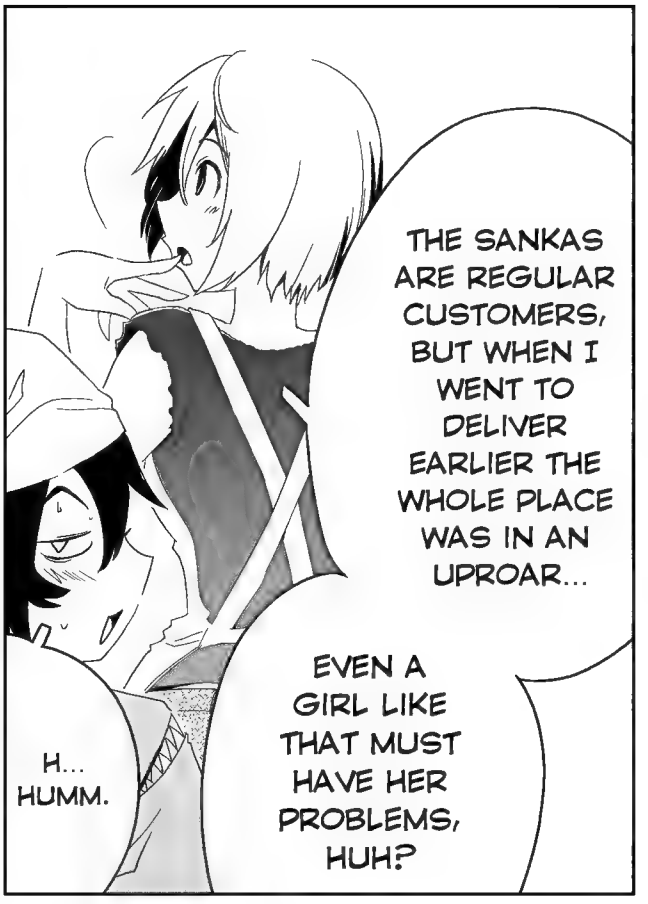
GRANDPA, YOU SAW BUB TOO, RIGHT?!
THUMP
THAT'S RIGHT !!
IT WAS BUB!!
SADA AND BUB BOTH CAME BACK TO LIFE!!
Hmm..
You're both completely senile..
GA HA HA
WHO'S SADA ?
THE WORLD OUGHTTA HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR THAT REANIMATING ELIXIR I INVENTED!!
GAA HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT REANIMATING...
GR... GRANDPA, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
Y'MEAN ABOUT SADA?
GA HA
NO, AFTER THAT ...!!

...YOU DON'T MEAN THAT POTION...?! YOU SAY YOU INVENTED IT...?!
BY "REANIMATING ELIXIR"... YOU DON'T MEAN...
GRIP
AH, WAIT...
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A BATH.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
SLIDE SLIDE
YOU DID!!
How can you forget already?
DID I SAY THAT?
HANG
TUG
Mew...
How undignified, brother of mine.
YOU ALWAYS TRY TO WEASEL OUT OF IT.
COME ON, YOU'RE NOT DONE CLEANING YET, ARE YOU?

squik
squik
POF
POF
THOUGH IT'S GRANDPA, SO I'M NOT SURE I CAN BELIEVE IT...
WAIT A SECOND, IF GRANDPA REALLY DID CREATE THAT ELIXER...
...THEN HE MIGHT EVEN KNOW ABOUT HOW TO PRESERVE BODIES AFTER THEY COME BACK, RIGHT...?!
AH, RANKO-CHAN.
?!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTI-NUED BUSI-NESS!
Kyoto Kyuuki
I HAD A DELIVERY NEARBY, AND DROPPED IN ON MY WAY BACK.
Here you go, Mero-chan.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, COMING BY HERE TWO DAYS IN A ROW, WANKO?
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

WHACK
AW, COME ON, UNCLE DOHN...
WHA- AAT, HIS WIFE ...?
CONTAINS EVIL SPIRITS
HA HA HA
...HE'LL NEED AN OLDER WIFE LIKE YOU WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM, RANKO-CHAN...
OUR CHIHIRO IS SO COMPLE- TELY SELFISH ...
OWW!
HNNH? HEAR WHAT?
SPLISH
CHIHIRO, DID YOU HEAR?
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH!
HM ?
AH...
IT'S NOTH- ING ...
drip
drip
THE SANKAS' ONLY DAUGHTER RAN AWAY FROM HOME YESTERDAY.
SPLOOSH

GLISTEN
COULD IT BE THAT SHE FOUND FOR-BIDDEN LOVE ?!
AND THEY ELOPED ?!


THE SANKAS ARE REGULAR CUSTOMERS, BUT WHEN I WENT TO DELIVER EARLIER THE WHOLE PLACE WAS IN AN UPROAR...
EVEN A GIRL LIKE THAT MUST HAVE HER PROBLEMS, HUH?
H... HUMM.

ZOOM
HUH ?!
...SO, CHIHIRO, GIRLS LIKE THAT ARE YOUR TYPE, AFTER ALL?

AND MAYBE THE TWO OF THEM SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER IN A SMALL INN WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE OCEAN...
... BRINGING THEIR BODIES AND HEARTS EVEN CLOSER...
Or something like that!
SIGH

I MEAN, LOOK, YOUR FRIEND SAID SO YESTER-DAY.
HE SAID YOU AND THAT REA GIRL WERE CLOSE.
N...

HMM, WELL, THAT'S 'CAUSE AS AN OLDER SISTER I'VE GOT TO KNOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIPS MY YOUNGER BROTHER HAS.
BUT ANYWAY, WHY DO I HAVE TO DISCUSS SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH YOU?!
HMMPH
SO IT'S NOTHING AT ALL LIKE THAT, I'M TELLING YOU!
NO... I'M TELLING YOU I JUST HAPPENED TO RUN INTO HER WHEN I WENT OUT ONE NIGHT, AND WE ONLY EXCHANGED A BIT OF SMALL TALK, IS ALL.
HMMM?
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH HER...? WHAT IS SHE EVEN TRYING TO SAY?
Tell everyone it was nice to see 'em!
TAP
TAP
THEN I'M GOING HOME, BECAUSE I'VE GOT TO HELP MY FAMILY.
OK! GOT IT.
WHAP
... WAIT A SEC!
HEY, CHIHIRO, CAN YOU GO WIPE THE FLOORS IN THE BACK OF THE HOUSE NOW?
I KNOW, I KNOW !!

brr
ACK! WHAT THE HECK?!
It's freez-ing!
WHY DOES HE HAVE THE AIR CONDITIONER ON AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...?
CLATTER CLATTER
THAT'S RIGHT. SINCE I CAME OUT HERE ANYWAY ...
TURN
GUESS I'LL BORROW A DVD.
hmmm...
ALL THESE ZOMBIE MOVIES HAVE THE SAME SORTS OF NAMES TOO...
RUB RUB
WHICH ONE HAVEN'T I BORROWED YET?
HMM...
DANCE OF THE DEAD
ROAR OF THE DEAD 5 - SPECIAL EDITION
ZOMBIE 20XX
ZOMBIES : THE FINAL
ZONGEREA DELUXE EDITION
ZONGEREA
ZOMBIE NURSE VS ALIEN DOCTOR
HM?
EENIE MEENIE MINEY MOE, CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE...
THUMP
WELL, WHATEVER...

...!!
glide
TWITCH
?!
GRNN...
GRNHH...
A LONG BLACK HAIR ...?!
STARE
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS CAN'T BE CHIHIRO'S, RIGHT ...?

VOOOMMM
SLIDE
RUMBLE
WHAT ...
...WAS THAT SOUND ?
...
sshh..

5
MUST BE MY IMAGIN-ATION.
SHOW
Kyoto

BUT WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY WANT TO EAT, WITH HER STOMACH ALL DESTROYED LIKE THAT?
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT! REA SEEMED HUNGRY ...
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
SINCE SHE'S A ZOMBIE ... THEN ...
RRUMMBLE...
NO WAY... RIGHT ?
...

ごぉ
WOW

H... HUH ?!
THUD
Kyoto Kagaki
YOU'RE ...?!
HO... HOW...? SHE'S SO STRONG ...!
SCRATCH

UH...
UM...
sniff
sniff
H... HUH? THIS GIRL ...
IT COULDN'T BE... SANKA...
TWITCH
N... JUST A...
GRIP
KNEAD
KNEAD
Kiyoto Kaiseki
Nnnnh...
ACK ?!
DRIP
DRIP
!!
Kiyoto Kaiseki

VOOOOMMM
DRIP
DRIP
...?!
WAIT...
DRIP
GLAZE
YOU... YOU'RE REALLY HURT!!
OH ...
WHAT'RE YOU SMILING FOR ...?
WE- WE'VE GOT TO CALL AN AMBU- LANCE...!

SOME-
THING
...
IS
OFF
...
HEE
HEE
...
N...
NO
WAY,
COULD
SHE BE
...?
RRIPP

NNOOOOOOOOO!!

DASH
SPLOOSH
GASP
NO WAY.
W... WANKO ?
JUST NOW ...
I HEARD HER SCREAMING FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE, SO THAT MEANS...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
NO WAY...
CLATTER
WANKO...
LICK
LICK

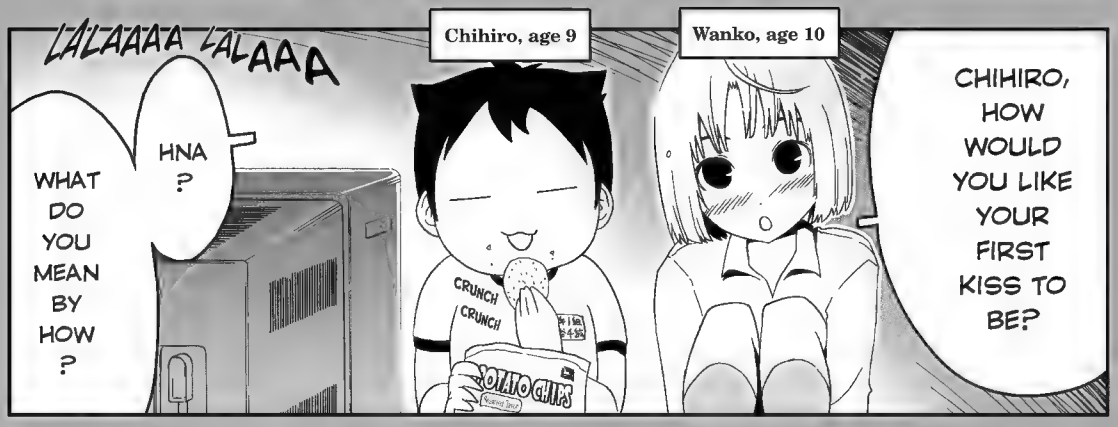
WOBBLE
!!
REA
...!!
HER RIGOR MORTIS HAS ALREADY GONE AWAY ...?!
W... WANKO, ARE YOU OKAY ?!
AH
...
RUYA
KUN
...
VOOOOMMM
CH... CHI- HIRO ...
WHOOSH

Smooch
HUH?
GAAASP
SQUEEZE
...HUH?!
NNNH...
NNNH...

6 TOUGH, AREN'T YOU...?

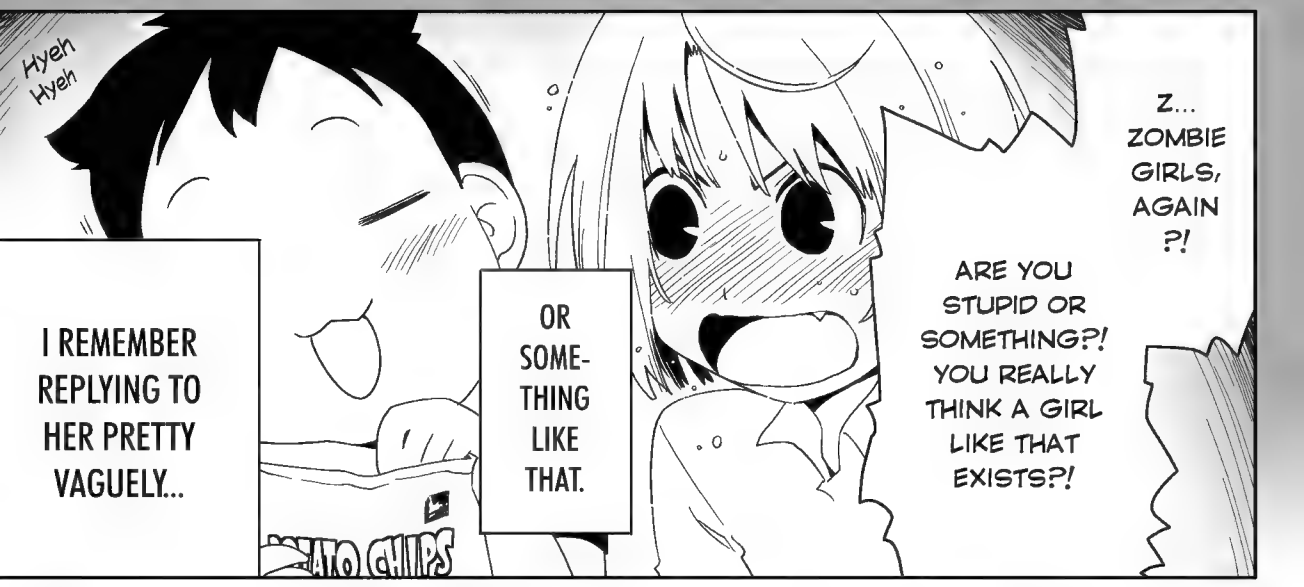
✦✦✦✦ SEVERED ✦✦✦✦

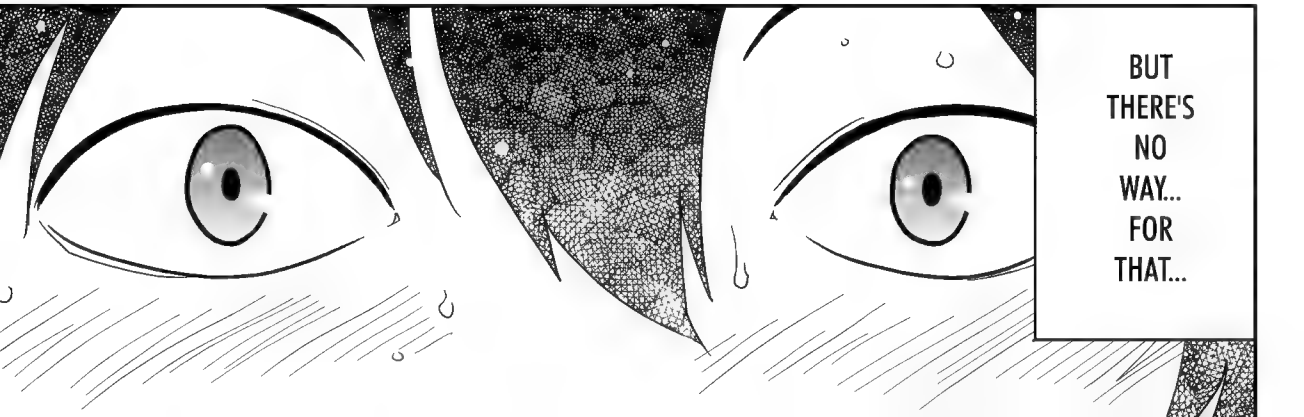
Six years earlier...
LALA LAAAA LALAAA
UM, SO, CHI-HIRO ...
We'll survive, and live together.


LALAAAA LALAAA
Chihiro, age 9
Wanko, age 10
HNA ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY HOW ?
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CHIHIRO, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST KISS TO BE?

CRASH!!!
HMMM...
LIKE WITH THE OCEAN AT SUNSET IN THE BACKGROUND... OR LIKE WHEN SEPARATING FROM YOUR BELOVED WHEN THEY LEAVE ON A JOURNEY... STUFF LIKE THAT.
Y... YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALL KINDS, RIGHT ?

EEEEEEEEK
SQUOOSH
SLICE
NOOOO
I'VE JUST GOTTA KISS A ZOMBIE GIRL LIKE THIS ONE...


Hyeh Hyeh
I REMEMBER REPLYING TO HER PRETTY VAGUELY...
OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?! YOU REALLY THINK A GIRL LIKE THAT EXISTS?!
Z... ZOMBIE GIRLS, AGAIN ?!


BUT THERE'S NO WAY... FOR THAT...

...HAVE COME TRUE...

FOR THAT...

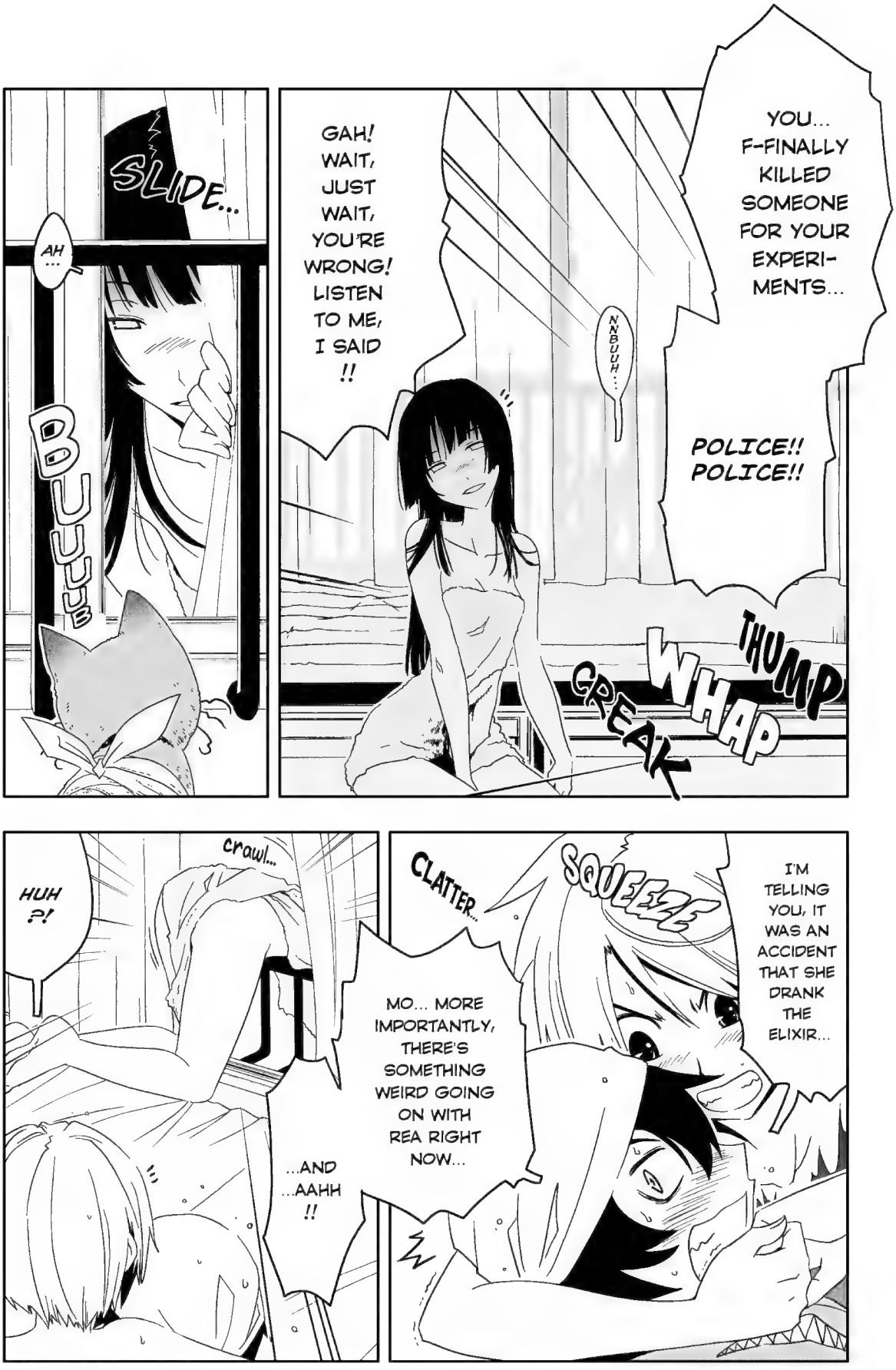
...TO ACTU-ALLY...

...
Nhgg...
...
SQUEEZE
WAIT, I MEAN-
WH... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE... REA... YOU...
IS SHE OUT OF IT BECAUSE HER RIGOR MORTIS JUST ENDED ...?!
Nnh...
WOOSH
CRUNCH
OWW !!

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
...?!
LICK
LICK
BA-BUMP
OOZE...
JUST NOW... MY LIP...
...SHE BIT IT...?!
GLAZE
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
AH...
BA-BUMP

GAAH
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS, CHIHIRO?!
WH...
GLAZE
AH...?
THEY SAID SANKA-SAN RAN AWAY! WH... WHY IS SHE IN YOUR ROOM, CHIHIRO?!
OH... UMM...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THIS GIRL IS REALLY HURT... BUT...
...BY ANY CHANCE ...
...IS THIS GIRL...
VOOOOMMM

BAM
A... ZOMBIE ...?!
ACTUALLY... WANKO...
...THERE'S A REAAAALLY GOOD REASON FOR ALL THIS.
MURDERER!!
WHUNK


SLIDE...
AH...
BUUUB
GAH! WAIT, JUST WAIT, YOU'RE WRONG! LISTEN TO ME, I SAID !!
NNBUUH...
YOU... F-FINALLY KILLED SOMEONE FOR YOUR EXPERI-MENTS...
POLICE!! POLICE!!
CREAK
WHAP
THUMP
HUH ?!
crawl...
...AND ...AAHH !!
MO... MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON WITH REA RIGHT NOW...
CLATTER...
SQUEEZE
I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT SHE DRANK THE ELIXIR...

DAMMIT!
BUUUB
AH...
crawl
crawl
W... WAIT, REA!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
WHOOSH
W... WAIT JUST A SECOND!
I... I DON'T DO WELL WITH YOUR GRANDPA ...
WANKO!! GO CALL GRANDPA, HE'S IN THE BATH!!
twitch
HUH?! WHYYY?!
COME ON, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
What the hell is all this?!

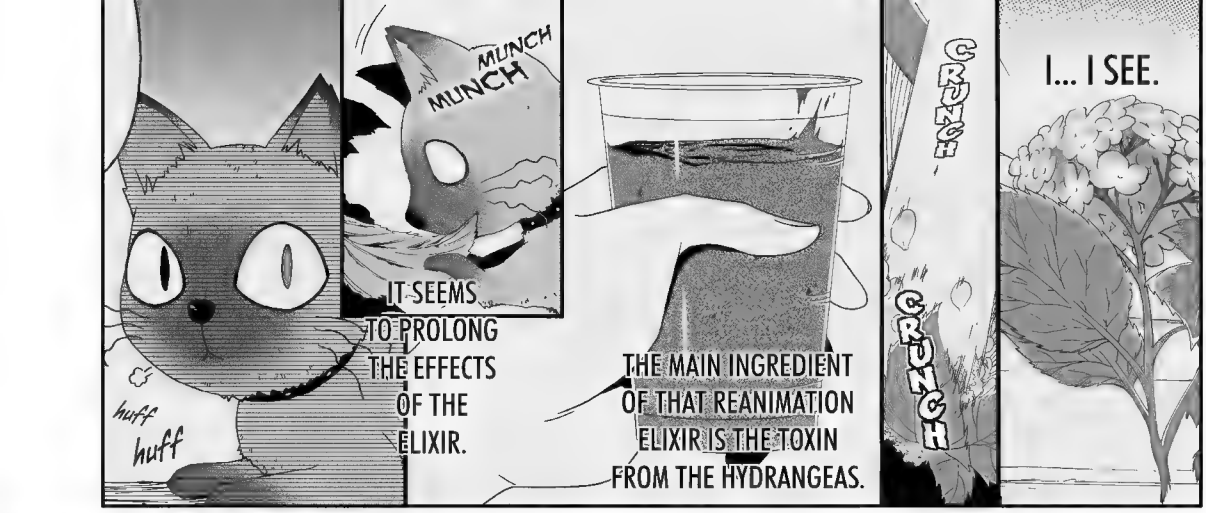
HUH ?
SHE'S GONE ...
HEY, CHIHIRO! WHAT WAS THAT VOICE JUST NOW?
WHOA !
SLIDE...
IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
CZAITER
SCRAPE
COULD SHE HAVE FALLEN OFF THE ROOF...?
AH... NO WAY...
SCRAPE
WOOSH

TURN
...HUH?
CRUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
CRUNCH

THEY'RE EATING...
...HYDRANGEA?!
CRUNCH...
...I MEAN ...
...HUH ...?!
...WHY ARE THEY EATING...
...
B-BUT WHY...
whish...
... nh.
REA...
Aahh ...
CRUNCH CRUNCH
PLUCK

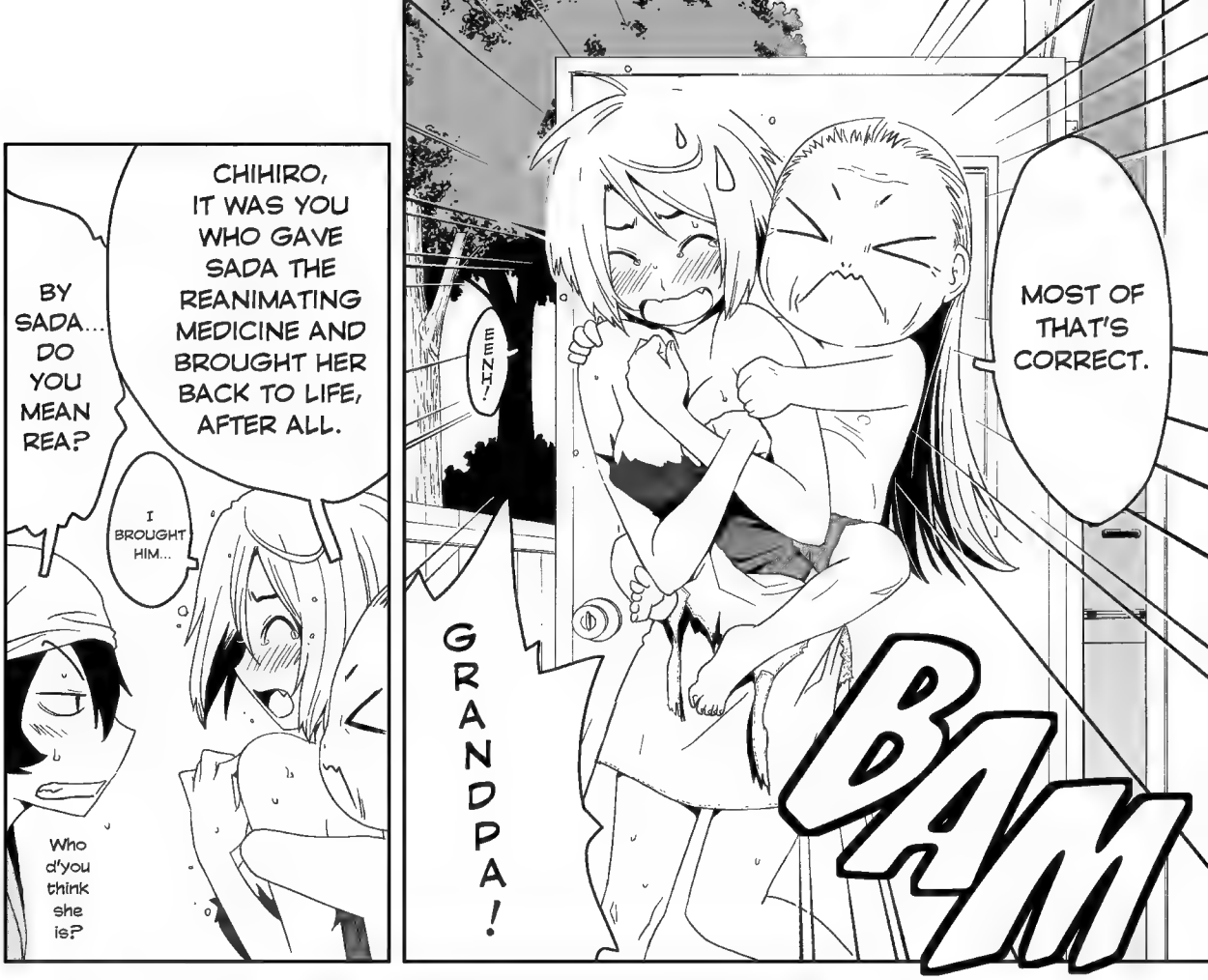
GASP...
HUH ...?
I...
HER EYES ARE CHANG-ING COLOR ...!!
OH... FURUYA... KUN...?!
TEAR
HER MIND IS BACK TO NORMAL TOO!!
REA!!
GLANCE

EEEEEEKKKK!
Why am I outside dressed like this ...?!
WHOOSH
AH... JUST WAIT A SECOND !!
TUG
WHEN SHE ATE THE HYDRANGEA, SHE WENT BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF...
TOSS
PUT THIS ON!!


MUNCH MUNCH
huff huff
IT SEEMS TO PROLONG THE EFFECTS OF THE ELIXIR.
THE MAIN INGREDIENT OF THAT REANIMATION ELIXIR IS THE TOXIN FROM THE HYDRANGEAS.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
I... I SEE.

HUH ...?
...INTO THEIR BODIES.
TOXINS ...?!
BOTH BUB AND REA...
...HAVE INCORP-ORATED THE HYDRAN-GEA TOXIN...

?!
HMM, JUST AS I EXPECTED FROM A GRANDSON OF MINE.


BAM
GRANDPA!
MMMZZ...
MOST OF THAT'S CORRECT.
CHIHIRO, IT WAS YOU WHO GAVE SADA THE REANIMATING MEDICINE AND BROUGHT HER BACK TO LIFE, AFTER ALL.
BY SADA... DO YOU MEAN REA?
I BROUGHT HIM...
Who d'you think she is?

THE RE-ANIMATING ELIXIR ISN'T PERFECT.
IF SOMEONE DRINKS IT JUST ONCE, IF LEFT ALONE THEY WILL GRADUALLY LOSE THEIR SENSES AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES, RETURNING TO THE CORPSE THEY WERE ORIGINALLY.

GRANDPA, GET AWAY FROM MEEEE!
VWOOM
VWOOM
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, OTOKI?! WE'RE HUSBAND AND WIFE.
I'M NOT OTOKI!!!!!
What the hell is he doing?

WHAT THE HELL? YOU COULD'VE WRITTEN THAT PART IN THE BOOK FOR ME!
TUG
YOU MORON !!
1: AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF EXERCISE.
2: A LOW-TEMPERATURE LIVING SPACE...
...AND FINALLY 3: FREQUENT REPLENISH-MENT OF THE HYDRANGEA TOXIN!!
IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE REANIMATED PERSON, YOU NEED...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

NAH.
B... BUT ANYWAY, AS LONG AS I'VE GOT HYDRANGEAS, THIS MEANS I CAN KEEP THE DECAY IN CHECK, THEN?
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF LOGIC IS THAT ?!
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT YOU SHOULD DISCOVER BY YOURSELF THROUGH CONSISTENT DAILY OBSER-VATION OF THE REANIMATED.
YOU GOT ME
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S WHAT I'M TELLING YOU. IT'S NOT PERFECT ...
...YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SLOW THE PROGRESSION, BUT YOU CAN'T STOP IT...
THUNK
THAT'S WHY I...
POOOF
HUHHH?
GR...
AH! I hit him by acci-dent...
GR... GRAND-PA!!

I'M SORRYYY! I DIDN'T ACTUALLY MEAN TO HIT HIM...
He was in such a rare state of lucidity, too...
Come on, let's go in the house.
OH, HE WENT INTO SENILE MODE AGAIN.
GA HA HA
WHAT A SPLENDI-FEROUS DAY IT IS TODAY...
BY THE WAY, CHIHIRO, WHO IS THAT GIRL?
TWITCH
HUH ?!
nnoHu...
ALL THESE INSIGHTS... I GUESS I'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR A WAY TO PROTECT REA'S BODY MYSELF, THEN.
STILL, WE DID LEARN A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS.

T... THIS IS NO GOOD. I'VE BEEN CAUGHT.
I PRO-BABLY CAN'T STAY HERE ANY-MORE...
I WAS GONNA RUN IT PAST YOU LATER, BUT...
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
?
NO... I MEAN... ACTUALLY, DAD... SHE'S...
THAT MAN... IS HE PART OF FURUYA-KUN'S FAMILY...?!
I WANT YOU TO PLEASE LET HER... I MEAN REA, LIVE HERE WITH US!!
DAD, UM ...
WOOSH

I MEAN ...
Huh ...?
I CAN'T TELL YOU ALL THE DETAILS, BUT SHE... DOESN'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO...
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, I...
...I... HAVE TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR HER.
S... SO DAD ...
... HMM.
SCRATCH
DETAILS... RESPON-SIBILITIES... MM...

hmmm...
TWIRL
UM... AH... YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT... WELL, OUR TEMPLE, SHIRYOHJI, WAS ORIGINALLY USED TO HOUSE REFUGEES AS WELL.
ALTHOUGH THIS ALSO INVOLVES ZOMBIES...
IT SOME-HOW SEEMS UNUSUAL FOR YOU...
...TO LOOK SO SERIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN ZOM-BIES...
BA-BUMP
THANKS, DAD!!
WHY NOT ?
HEYYY, REA! COME ON UP!

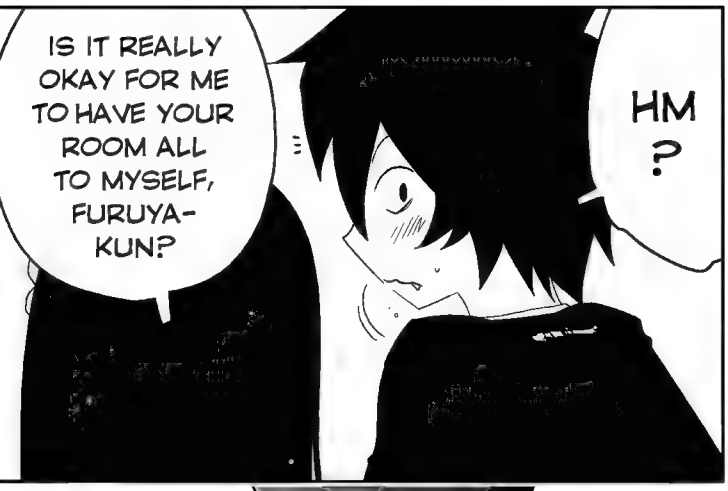
I GOT DAD'S PERMI-SSION!
STARTING TODAY, YOU CAN STAY HERE WITHOUT HIDING.
HUH ...?!
WHAT, WERE YOU ALREADY SECRETLY LIVING TOGETHER, THEN?!
LIVING TOGETHER ...?! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!!
BLUSH
HMM... IS THAT RIGHT?
HEY HEY, NOT YOU TOO, WANKO.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...
... HUH?

...
I SEE ...
RUSTLE
SHE'S TOUGH, ISN'T SHE...?

HUH ?!
YOU DOG, YOU !!
Gweh.
TUG
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF HELPING OUT MY FAMILY!!
TAP TAP
AWW, MY APRON'S ALREADY ALL RIPPED...
I'm borrowing a shirt before I go, okay ?
...
I'M GONNA GET CHEWED OUT BY MOM FOR ALL THIS.
?
WELL, SEE YOU LATER!! OH, YOU TOO, SANKA-SAN.
...THAT GIRL JUST NOW...

A little while later...
I'M SO SOR-RY.
WHAM
BAM
SCRTCH SCRTCH
WOBBLE..
NAH.
WELL, AS A RESULT, I DID LEARN A BIT ABOUT THE CHAR-ACTERISTICS OF ZOMBIES.
I GUESS I CAUSED ANOTHER STRING OF PROBLEMS FOR YOU, FURUYA-KUN...
SWIK
...
...I STILL ENDED UP NOT KNOWING HOW TO KEEP THE DECAY IN CHECK...
BUT EVEN THOUGH I ASKED GRANDPA...

U... UM...
THUNK
ISN'T THERE... ANOTHER WAY?


IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO HAVE YOUR ROOM ALL TO MYSELF, FURUYA-KUN?
HM ?

...STAYING WITH YOU LIKE THIS EITHER, FURUYA-KUN...
STARE
UM... I WOULDN'T MIND...
GASP
!!

IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO KEEP IT COMPLETELY AT BAY, ANYWAY ...?!
IS THERE A WAY TO FULFILL REA'S WISHES WHILE MAINTAINING HER BODY?
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN THE HYDRANGEAS STOP BLOOMING...

K... KISS ?!
EVEN THAT KISS GOT PRETTY RISKY. IF WE STAY TOGETHER, WE COULD LOSE ALL SENSE OF REASON...
mutter mutter
SCRITCH
... NO... THAT'S ...
HUH ?!
WOOM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KISS ?!
...DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THEN?!
BA-
BOOM
HUH... SHE...

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
NO, IT'S NOTHING, JUST MY IMAGINATION. A MISUNDER-STANDING!
TWIRL
WHA... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU KISSED ME BEFORE WHILE MY MEMORY WAS ALL FOGGY... ?
STARE
WRONG!! YOU KISSED ME... OH, I MEAN NO...
Hero's room
BROTHER IS ENJOYING HIS YOUTH AT LAST.
WELL... ANYWAY, FOR THE TIME BEING, AT LEAST YOU'RE ALLOWED TO LIVE HERE...
SO FROM NOW ON, UM...
...!
...I'LL TAKE PROPER CARE OF YOU...
...
IN THAT CASE ...

FLUFF
PLEASE TREAT MY BODY CAREFULLY FROM NOW ON.
FURUYA-KUN...
WHEN REA BIT ME THAT TIME...
HEY ... U
...THAT PHRAS-ING...
HUH ?
DID IT SOUND WEIRD OR SOME-THING...?!
WAS IT AN ACCIDENT...? OR...

7 A FALSE... FREEDOM...

✦ ✦DAWN OF THE DEAD✦ ✦

UMM, IT'S SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, AT 10:12 AM.
THREE DAYS SINCE SHE BECAME A ZOMBIE ...
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S EATING HYDRAN-GEA LEAVES.
SLIDE...
HER THIGHS AND THE BOTTOMS OF HER FEET...
... NOR-MAL !!
REC
STARE
conan
HD

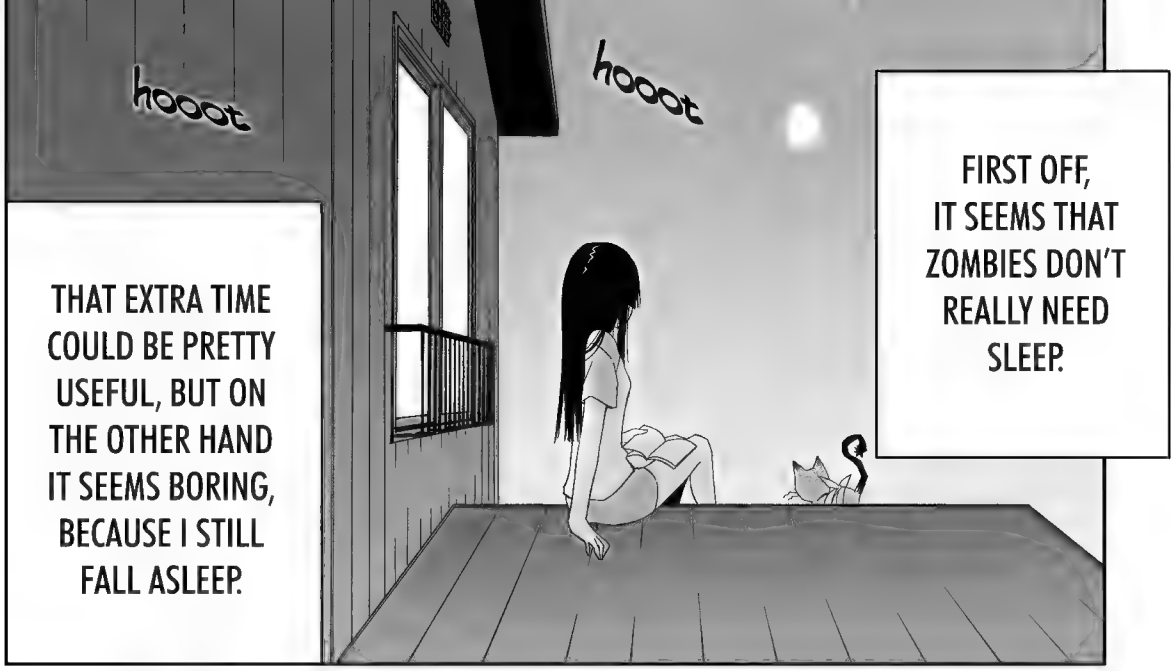
UPPER ARMS ...
... NECK ...
...NAPE OF THE NECK...
... NOR-MAL !!
CRUNCH
REC

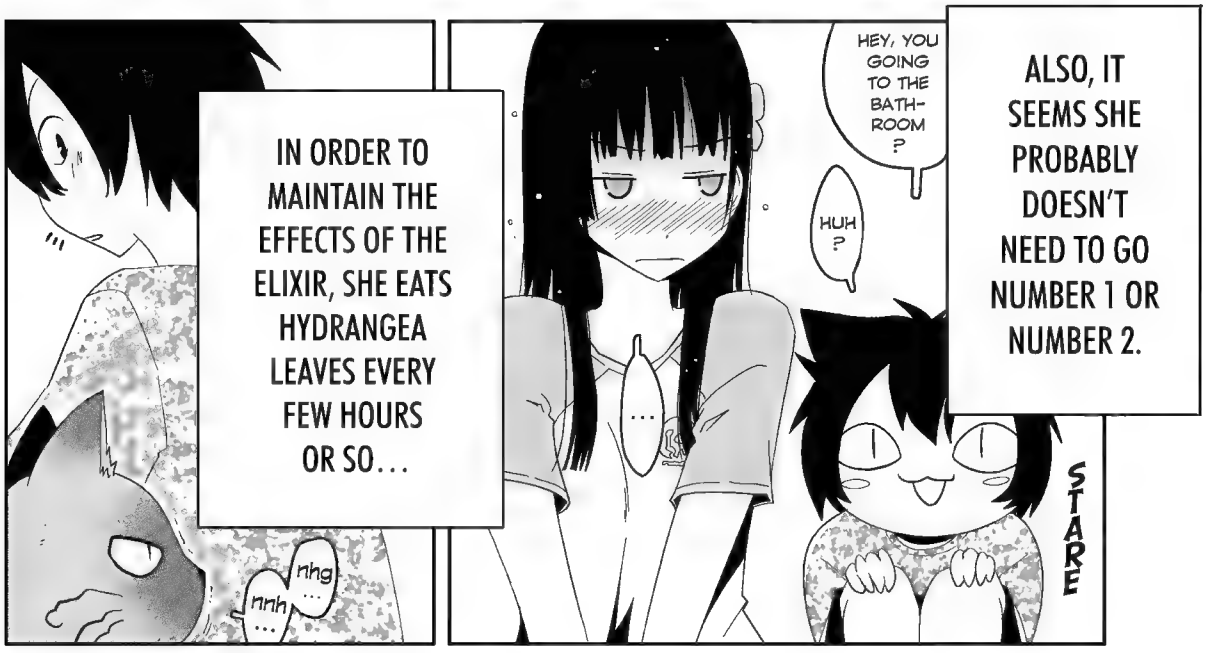
IT'S SORT OF... REALLY EMBARR-ASSING...
BLUSH
WHAT? NO WAY ...
NO, NO, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, REA.
HMM? MAKING A RECORD OF MY ZOMBIE OBSERVA-TIONS.
FURUYA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?
STARE

Video camera he borrowed from his dad.

GRIN GRIN GRIN
LEER
conan
GRIN GRIN GRIN
FROM TODAY ON I'M GOING TO COLLECT EVERYTHING (AND I MEAN EVERYTHING) ABOUT YOU ON THESE VIDEOS !!
WHAAAT?

THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS I'VE REALIZED SINCE I STARTED OBSERVING HER.


hoooot
hoooot
FIRST OFF, IT SEEMS THAT ZOMBIES DON'T REALLY NEED SLEEP.
THAT EXTRA TIME COULD BE PRETTY USEFUL, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT SEEMS BORING, BECAUSE I STILL FALL ASLEEP.


IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTS OF THE ELIXIR, SHE EATS HYDRANGEA LEAVES EVERY FEW HOURS OR SO…
nhg…
nnnh…
HEY, YOU GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM?
HUH?
…
ALSO, IT SEEMS SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T NEED TO GO NUMBER 1 OR NUMBER 2.
STARE

A HY-DRAN-GEA BALL!!
WOW!
ROLL
ROLL
BUB SPIT UP A BALL OF ROLLED-UP HYDRANGEA THAT HE HAD EATEN, JUST LIKE COUGHING UP A HAIRBALL. SO REA IS PROBABLY DOING THE SAME THING…?!
OOH?!
SPIT
ROLL

IF SO, THEN I WANT TO CAPTURE THAT MOMENT ...
ISN'T SOMETHING GONNA COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?
WHEE WHEE
conan HD
WHEE WHEE
HUH? HUH?
What does he want from me...?
...
W... WELL THEN, IN RETURN FOR LETTING YOU FILM ME...
...YOU'LL DO WHAT I ASK YOU TO DO, RIGHT?
HUH?
THINGS THAT "NORMAL GIRLS" DO.
...BY WHICH YOU MEAN?

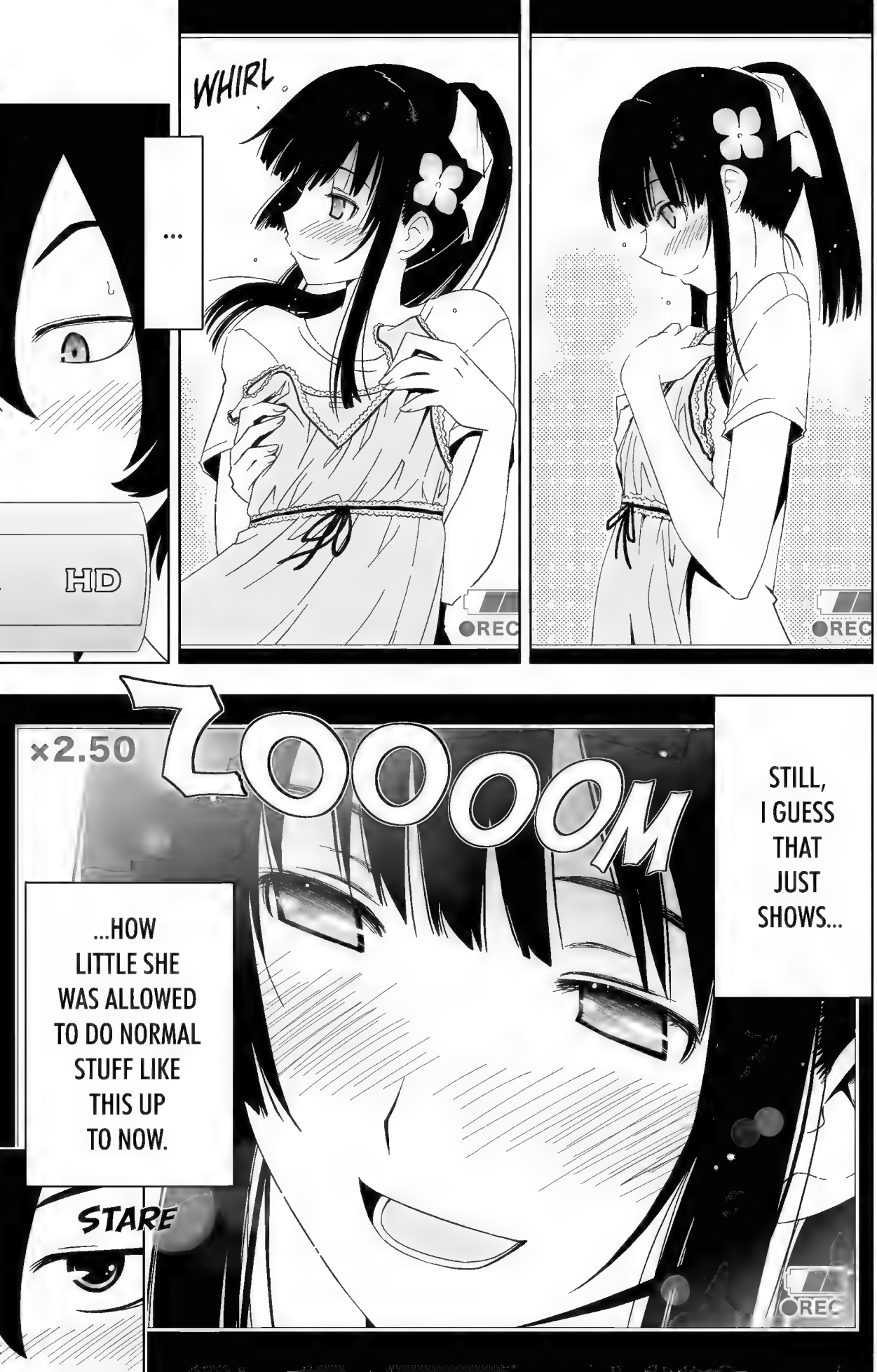
2

WELL, FURUYA-KUN?

HOW ABOUT THIS?

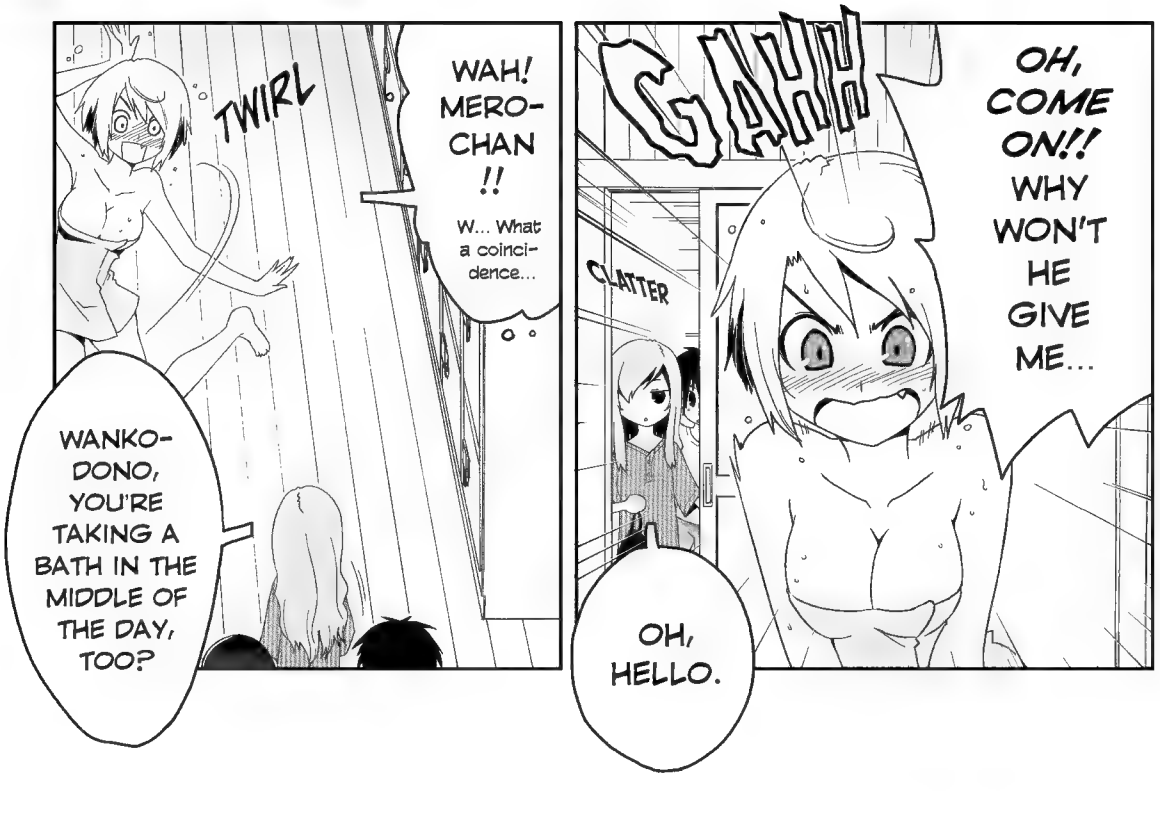
WHOOSH

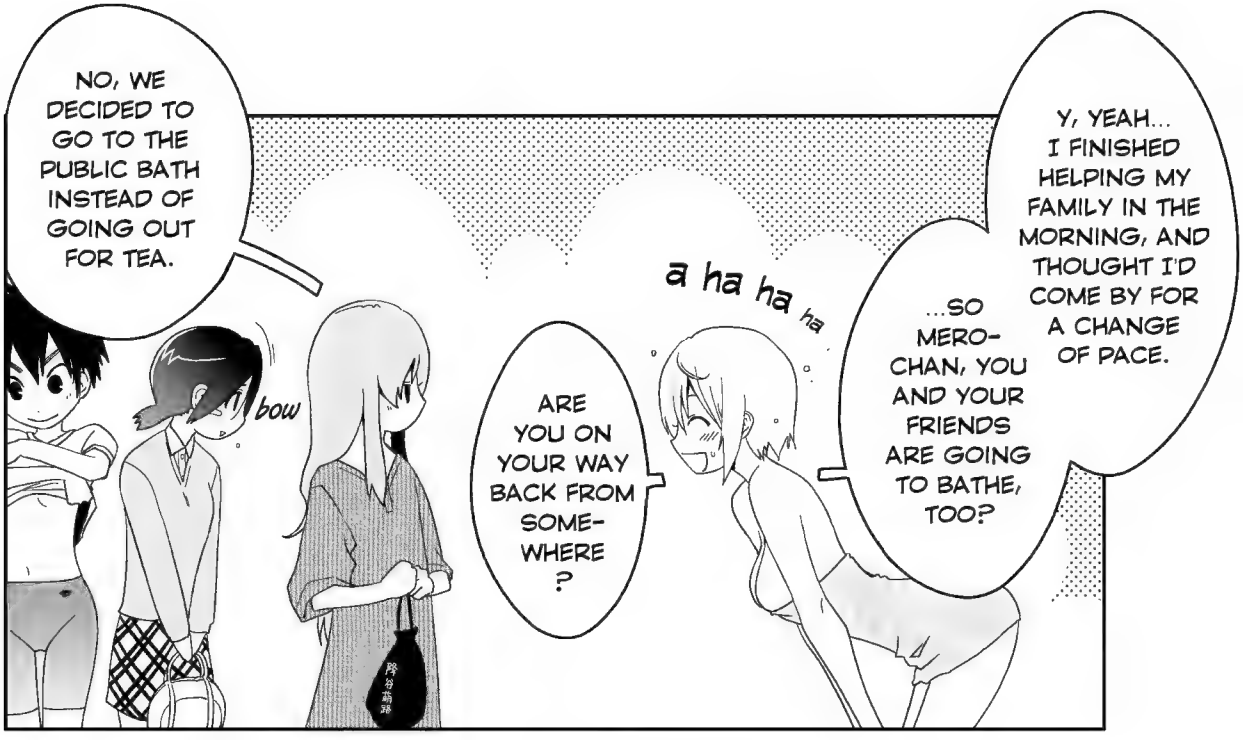
humph
I AM CHOOSING CLOTHING, AFTER ALL...
PLEASE LOOK MORE CAREFULLY!!
humph
NO... I MEAN...
COME ON, FURUYA-KUN!!
HUH? YEAH, THAT ONE'S FINE.
conan
OH, IS IT OKAY IF I BUY A HAT, TOO?
Aww, all my pocket money...
JUST AS LONG AS IT ALL ADDS UP TO LESS THAN 10,000 YEN.
IF YOU ARE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO BUY THIS FOR ME, FURUYA-KUN...
...THEN I WANT TO CHOOSE THE BEST ONE.
FOR A WHILE NOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CHOOSING ANYTHING AT ALL.
We've been going around for more than half an hour.
THERE'S NO POINT IN TAPING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
conan
HD
THAT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH SHE WANTS TO GO SHOPPING...
CHATTER
CHATTER
I MEAN... SHE'S OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY... EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HER IT WOULD JUST SPEED UP THE DAMAGE TO HER BODY...


WHIRL
...
HD
REC
REC
×2.50
ZOOOOM
...HOW LITTLE SHE WAS ALLOWED TO DO NORMAL STUFF LIKE THIS UP TO NOW.
STILL, I GUESS THAT JUST SHOWS...
STARE
REC

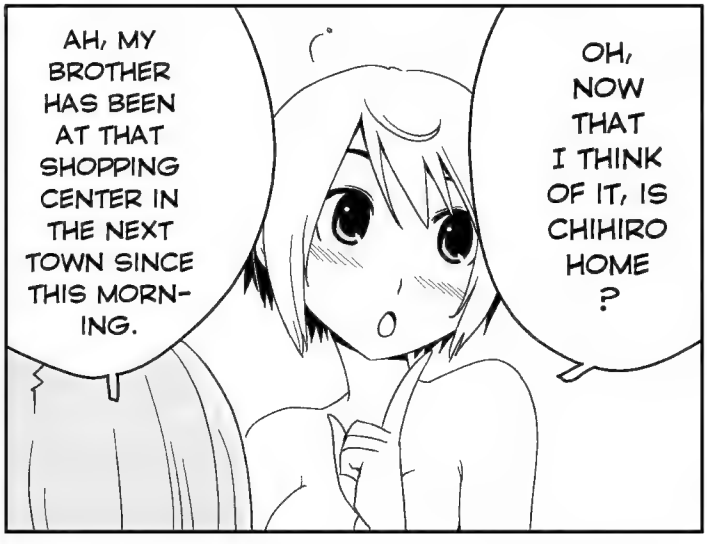
MMM...
BATH
PLOOP
A BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY IS SO NICE!
mhh...
TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR HER.
...
...I... HAVE TO

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
...I'M SURE SANKA-SAN BECOM-ING A ZOMBIE IS A LONG STORY ...
...BUT FOR HIM TO JUST START LIVING WITH HER SO SUDDENLY, WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING AT ALL TO ME...
CL-CL-CLACK
* Censored at Ranko's request.
I gained just a tiny bit of weight...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE EVER SEEN CHIHIRO LOOK-ING THAT SER-IOUS ...


TWIRL
WAH! MERO-CHAN !!
W... What a coinci-dence...
WANKO-DONO, YOU'RE TAKING A BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, TOO?
GAHH
CLATTER
OH, COME ON!! WHY WON'T HE GIVE ME...
OH, HELLO.


NO, WE DECIDED TO GO TO THE PUBLIC BATH INSTEAD OF GOING OUT FOR TEA.
bow
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM SOME-WHERE ?
a ha ha ha
...SO MERO-CHAN, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING TO BATHE, TOO?
Y, YEAH... I FINISHED HELPING MY FAMILY IN THE MORNING, AND THOUGHT I'D COME BY FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.

...HMM, SO THEY'RE HAVING FUN TO-GETHER...
SNAP SNAP
UNHH ...


AH, MY BROTHER HAS BEEN AT THAT SHOPPING CENTER IN THE NEXT TOWN SINCE THIS MORN-ING.
OH, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, IS CHIHIRO HOME ?

...OKAY THEN !!

TWITCH
!!
HE SAID HE WAS BUYING CLOTHING WITH REA-DONO OR SOMETHING...

GRAB
I'LL GO IN THE BATH ONCE MORE WITH YOU, MERO-CHAN !!
A BATH TO FORGET ALL MY TROU-BLES!!
Take that!
PL—OP
ALL THREE OF YOU, STICK WITH ME ALL DAY!!
yeahh
SPLOOOOSH
YOU'RE GOING TO GET OVER-HEATED.
SPLASH
SPLASH

BA-
BUMP
MITO
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING !!
BA-BUMP
...
HM ?
LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...
whisper whisper
HUMM
glide
HUMM
NO-THING AT ALL.
PLEASE TRY SAYING THAT ONCE MORE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?

YES...
AT THIS TIME THEY ARE IN THE K-CITY SHOPPING CENTER.
...YES.
IT SEEMS TO BE JUST THE TWO OF THEM, THE FURUYA THAT YOU MENTIONED, AND HER.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HMM... CONTINUE TO MONITOR THEM AS YOU HAVE BEEN.
THERE IS NO NEED TO HURRY.
THEN... WHEN REA IS ALONE... CARRY OUT THE PLAN.
RO-GER.

WHAM

CLANG

HEH
...

SHE BELIEVES THAT SHE'S FREE
...

SQUEAK

BUT IT IS
...

...A FALSE FREEDOM ...!!

SLICE
IT IS NOT!
BUT IF YOU THINK THAT RUNNING AWAY FROM IT IS FREEDOM...
CALM WATER MAKES A CLEAR MIRROR
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU MAY HAVE FELT THAT MY DISCIPLINE WAS TOO STRICT.
NOW...
OH, CAN WE GO IN THERE ?!
TWITCH
Ngh...
COME ON HOME... REA...

I'LL TEACH YOU...
GRINooo
...WHAT TRUE FREE-DOM IS...
NGAHHH

IT'S EXTREMELY WELL MADE, ISN'T IT?
STARE STARE
STARE
...
BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THESE STITCHES WERE DONE WITH A LITTLE MORE CARE.
WOW ...
STARE!!!
DON'T YOU THINK SO, FURUYA-KUN...?
HUH ?
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE...
IT REALLY EXISTS!
THE ACCURSED HORROR HOUSE
EXIT
ENTRANCE
A HA HA HA HA !

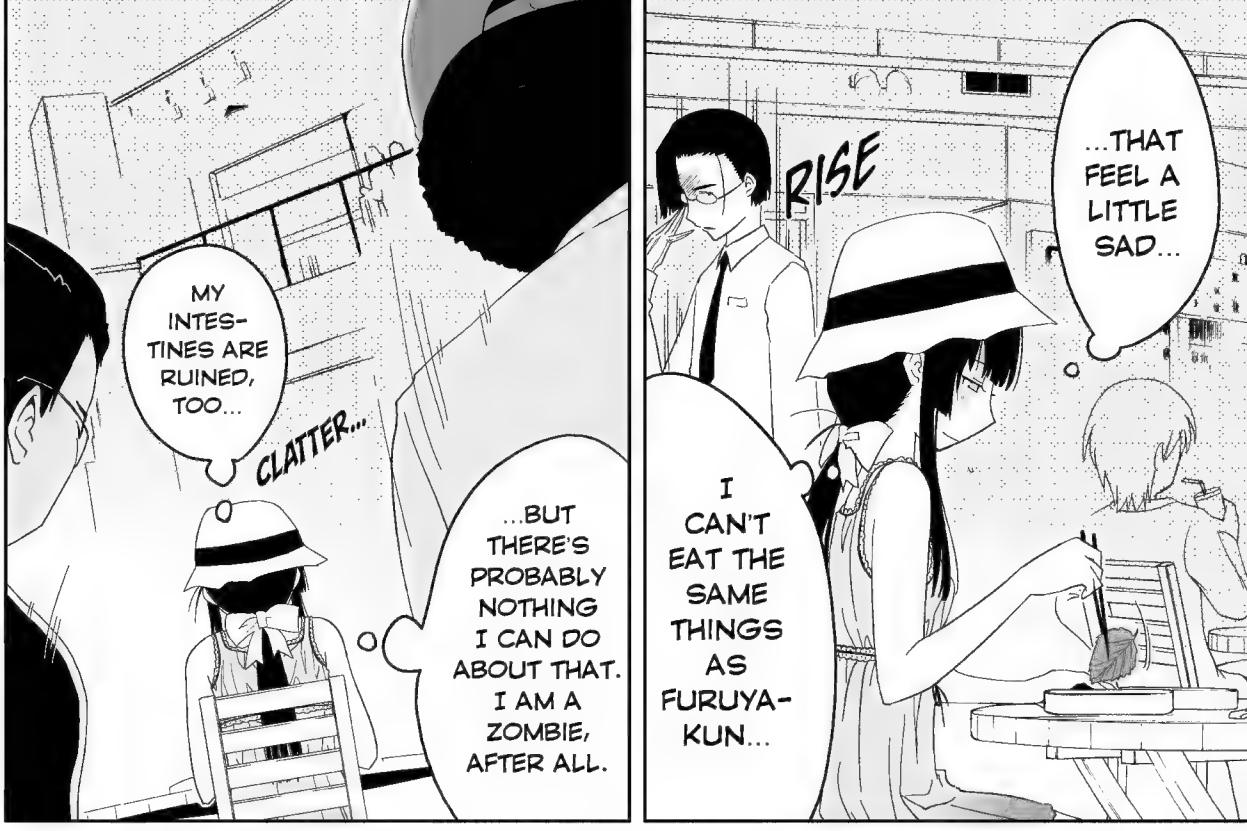
I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO HATE HAUNTED HOUSES, FURUYA-KUN...!
S-SHUT UP!
LIKING ZOMBIES AND HORROR MOVIES AND LIKING THIS KIND OF THING ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, I'M TELLING YOU...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY CALM WITH ALL THIS STUFF, AREN'T YOU?
HM?
W... WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?!
Tee hee hee.
FLOP
BUT YOU WITHSTOOD ALL THAT JUST TO GO IN WITH ME.

THANK YOU.
FURUYA-KUN...
BA-BUMP

W-WELL, I WON'T GO IN NEXT TIME, THOUGH.
KEH
Tee hee hee.

...

CLATTER
OH... MAYBE I SHOULD BUY SOMETHING TO EAT TOO...
THIS IS NO GOOD...! I'VE GOT TO HAVE A "MEAL" JUST ABOUT NOW...
RRRUUMMBLLEE
STUMBLE STUMBLE
I'LL BE BACK SOON, SO START EATING FIRST.
AH... OKAY.
POP
...THESE MEALS ARE THE ONLY THINGS...
CLACK...


...THAT FEEL A LITTLE SAD...
RISE
I CAN'T EAT THE SAME THINGS AS FURUYA-KUN...
MY INTES-TINES ARE RUINED, TOO...
CLATTER...
...BUT THERE'S PROBABLY NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT. I AM A ZOMBIE, AFTER ALL.

WHOOSH
...REA-SAN...
SANKA ...
TWITCH
glide

HOWDYYY!!
TA-DAAA
...?! WHO IS THAT GUY?!
COULD IT BE... FATE?
heh
UM...?
GLARE...
HEY HEY, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE TO MEET IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
prance
prance
UH... UM...?

UH... YOU ARE ...?
WHAAAT ARE YOU SAYING ?
I'M YASUTAKA. WE'VE SPENT SOME WONDERFUL MOMENTS TOGETHER IN THE PAST!! FURUYA'S GOOD FRIEND!
OH... YOU WERE AT THE SCHOOL ...
ARE YOU GOING SHOPPING AFTER THIS?
NO... I ALREADY FINISHED MY SHOP-PING...
WHO IS THIS GUY ?!
Whisper Whisper
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD WE TELL DANICHI-ROH?
SO THIS MUST BE WHAT YOU CALL "DOWNTIME" THEN, HUH? MY MY MY...
NO... LET'S OBSERVE THE SITUATION JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...
THEN I KNOW A GREAT SPOT!!
HURRY, BEFORE I REALIZE I'M COMPLETELY MAKING THIS UP!!
GRAB
HUH ?

THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE CAUGHT ON TO US, IS HERE?!
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!
HOW ON EARTH... WHO IS THAT GUY?!
U, UM ...
I... UM...
OH? REA-SAN, ARE YOU SENSITIVE TO THE COLD? YOUR ARM FEELS LIKE ICE.
TAP TAP
HUH?! WE'RE GOING OUTSIDE ...?!
EXACTLY!! OH, THERE'S AN EMPTY BENCH OUT THERE...
UM, HOW FAR ARE WE...
WHIISH

COME ON... IT'S NO GOOD FOR YOU TO ALWAYS STAY IN THE AIR CONDI-TIONING !!
YAAAAyy
AH, UM, I... AM NOT SO GOOD AT BEING OUT IN THE SUN...
LOOK, THIS PLACE HAS A GREAT VIEW, DOESN'T IT?

!!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL WITH PALE SKIN, REA...
...BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU GET UNHEALTHY, RIGHT?
RAN RAN PIII
SEE, THE EARLY SUMMER SUN FEELS GREAT!

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
THEY'RE RIGHT AT THE EXIT NEAR OUR CAR !!
OKAY, LET'S GO! TIME TO CARRY OUT OUR PLAN!!
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GO FOR IT?!

come on
come on
WHIIISH
ONE...
WE'LL ALL GO AT THE SAME TIME.
THREE...
TWO...
WHOOM
LEAVE THE GUY TO ME.
rus-tle
WA
AM
GO !!
crouch
grab

REA
?
Whoosh!!

GRAB
...?!
WHACK
Nrgh...
WH-HHSHH
HUH?
WOOSH

WHISH
THUMP
NNNH!!

DOES THIS MEAN HER BRAIN'S LIMITING CIRCUITS REALLY HAVE BEEN REMOVED ...?!
HOW'D SHE GET THIS STRONG ...?!
SCRAPE
WHA ...?
WHACK

GRIP
NOOO!
FURUYA-KUN...!
SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE
GRH... I CAN'T... HOLD HER!!
HELP MEEE!!
THUMP
REA!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SPLAT
WHAT'S WRONG?!

ZOOO!
WHOOOOM
YAHH!
DON'T COME ANY CLO-SER!
out cold
GHAA
limp
WHOOOOM

...FOR COMING TO SAVE MEEEE...
WAAAHHH, THANK YOU...
WHUMP

... UMMMM, REA...?
AHH !!
THUNK

BY THE WAY, WHO ARE THESE GUYS ...?!
I DON'T KNOW !!
On top of that, why Yasutaka ?
KHH... ARE YOU OKAY ?
G... ahh.
RISE...
WAAHH
SHE WAS... SWING-ING THE BENCH AROUND ...?!
You're gonna dislocate your shoulder...
YEAH, I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING ...
IT WAS SO SCARY !
THOSE PEOPLE TRIED TO KIDNAP ME...!
AHHH
WE'RE CALLING THE POLICE !!
SAY SOME-THING !
WHO ARE YOU OLD FARTS?! WHY ARE YOU AFTER REA?!
HEY !!
W... WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE ...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
CRAWL...
SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, TIME FOR A CHANGE OF PLANS ...

LEMME GUESS, YOU'RE FROM THE SANKA FAMILY...
glide
AH, BEHIND YOU !!
GRAB
?!
...!!
WHAM
VROOMM
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WAIT A...
WAH !
HEY !
WOOM

VRROO
OOMM
FU-RUYA-KUN !!
DAMN IT, YOU ASSHOLE, UNTIE ME!!
MMM
MY APOLO-GIES ...
WE CARRIED OUT THE PLAN AND TRIED TO CAPTURE REA-SAMA, BUT...
WELL... SHE WAS UNBE-LIEVABLY STRONG... AND WE WERE UNABLE TO RESTRAIN HER...
OOMM
HMM ...
...SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SWITCH TO PLAN B.

DANI-CHIROH-SAMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?!
SHALL WE GET RID OF THE BOY AND TRY FOR REA-SAMA AGAIN...?
NO...
BRING HIM TO ME.
HM... LET'S USE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY ...
...TO FIGURE OUT WHICH OF US IS REALLY STRONG-ER.
RIGHT, FURUYA ...?

SANKAREA ANECDOTES 2

About the Setting

This time I'll talk about the setting of this story, the town of Shiyoh.
Even outside of "Sankarea," I always base the settings of my published works on actual locales (though the names and the details of the terrain are made up). Just as with my previous works, this time around I used a real place as a model for the setting again.

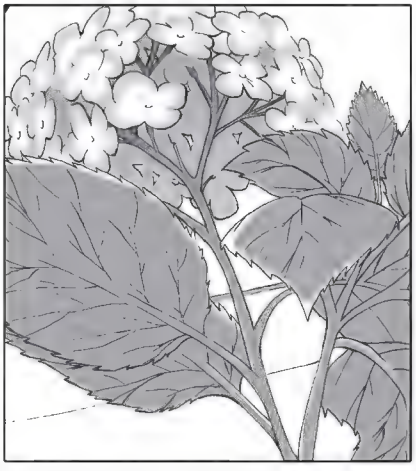
The chance for this occurred when I was on vacation, traveling. I happened to pass this place by train and thought, "Wow." It's not that it had any particular characteristics, but for some reason the place had something that stayed inside of me.

A while later, it came time for me to begin a new comic about zombies. Though I considered a lot of different ideas, none of them really took shape, and I nearly decided to give up on the subject.

It was then that I suddenly remembered the area I just mentioned. I had a vague thought, like, "I don't know if I can gain something from this, but let's go there, and I can take a breather, too!" Without any concrete plans, I left suddenly on the first train towards the place.

Anyway, while taking pictures, I hung around the area with no real purpose at all. I'm the type who enjoys just walking around an area I don't know, and it felt good to take a break from work. The town, the nature, the lives of the local people…

While looking at all sorts of things, I started to feel more and more like, "Oh, I think I can use this," "That place is great, huh." All kinds of ideas came bubbling up, and just as though my writer's block had never happened, I was completely ready to go as soon as I got home!! Ah, it's the first time I've gotten so much out of location hunting. (Heh!)



Hydrangeas are so connected to this story because when I went, they just happened to be having a hydrangea festival nearby, and so I ended up thinking that having zombies made from hydrangea toxins was a surprisingly weird but possibly good idea. When I looked down at the town from an herb garden on top of the mountain, the character of a daughter of a famous family living in a mansion on the mountain, semi-isolated from the outside world, who dies and becomes a zombie because she wants to be free came bubbling up.

So that place that became the setting for "Sankarea"… any bored people out there, why not try to investigate where it is? Though I think if you search a little you'll find it right away. (Heh.)

Meanwhile, at the Furuya home...

FURUYA MERO

FURUYA'S YOUNGER SISTER. HER HOBBY IS COPYING SUTRAS.

BUB

Zombie cat.

Sanka Danichiroh (48)

Had such a paranoid love for his daughter Rea that he drove her to her death...

Inside the car

DAMN IT, LET ME OUT !!

BOOM

WELL, FURUYA ...

SHALL WE FIGURE OUT WHICH OF US IS REALLY STRONGER?

Furuya Chihiro (15)

A zombie-crazed boy who created an elixir while trying to reanimate his pet cat. Rea drank a little of this elixir...

The town of Shiyoh,
K Prefecture, Ashikura County

HM...

VROOO

LET'S USE THIS OPPORTUNITY ...

Sanka Rea (15)

The only daughter of a well-known family. Died trying to escape from her father, and came back to life as a zombie girl.

FU-RUYA -KUN !!

8 ...CREEPY...

✦LET SLEEPING CORPSES LIE✦

Mitsuru Hattori presents
SANKAREA
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

Sanka Estate
Asano-san, maid
(three years of continuous service)
WELCOME, FURUYA-SAMA. THANK YOU FOR COMING.
HERE IS YOUR WELCOME DRINK.
CLACK
Phew
MY THROAT WAS JUST GETTING DRY...
WHEW ...

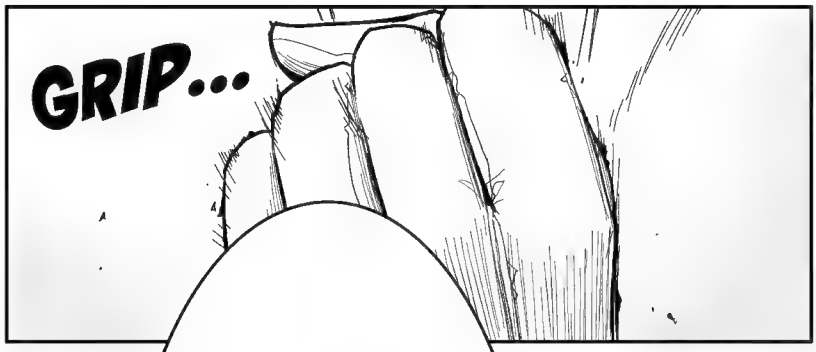
twirl
HEY, LET ME GO !!
GRAAAH
BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME !!
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELF AT HOME.
CLATTER
CLATTER

GLANCE
DAMN IT...
glide...

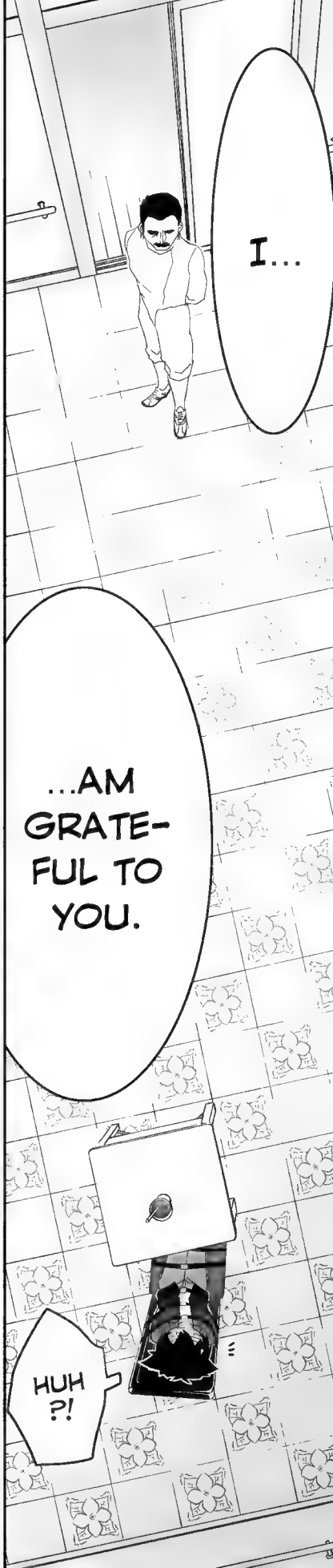
...

I TOOK ALL OF THESE.
NO MATTER WHERE OR WHEN YOU TAKE PICTURES OF REA, SHE'S ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL.
UGH...
...
I HAVE PROTECTED REA'S INNOCENCE TO THIS POINT...
WE FINALLY MEET.
THIS IS BECAUSE SHE WAS WOVEN OF FRAGILITY AND BEAUTY AT BIRTH
...
SHE IS INNOCENCE ITSELF.

LOSING REA ONCE ...

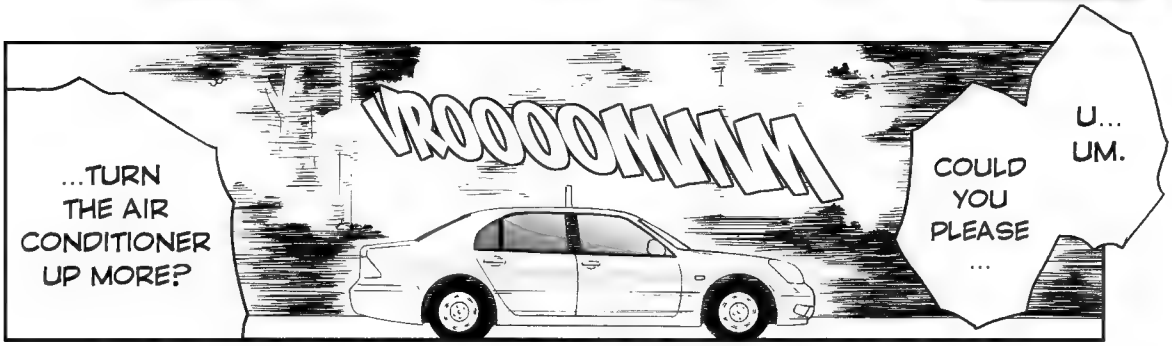

GRIP...

I FEEL AS THOUGH I WANT TO PRO- TECT HER EVEN MORE ...
...MADE THE LOVE I HAVE FOR HER INSIDE ME GROW EVEN STRONG- ER...!


I...
...AM GRATE- FUL TO YOU.
HUH ?!

SO I THANK YOU.
BUT I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
FURUYA CHIHIRO.

mutter
mutter
WASN'T SOME GIRL SWINGING THIS BENCH AROUND A FEW MOMENTS AGO?
HUH, NO WAY...
HEY, SOME-ONE'S PASSED OUT OVER THERE ...
mutter
mutter
mutter
mutter
WHAT IS THIS ...?


VROOOOMMM
...TURN THE AIR CONDITIONER UP MORE?
U... UM. COULD YOU PLEASE ...

THOSE PEOPLE HAVE TO BE LACKEYS SENT BY MY FATHER...
mmh...
THAT'S GOT TO BE IT.
GOT-CHA.
WAS IT REALLY THAT HOT OUT TODAY ?

VROOOOMMMMM
FURUYA-KUN... IS IN DANGER ...!!
CAN YOU PLEASE GO FASTER ?
GOT-CHA.
DOES THIS GIRL EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY...?
UM, SO, MISS MAID.
CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME USE YOUR BATH-ROOM?
whisper
whisper
I'LL USE THAT CHANCE TO GET AWAY.
...TO PUT ME IN BOILING OIL, OR DROP ME OFF A CLIFF OR SOME-THING, IS THERE...?
...THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE'S PLAN-NING...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HEE-EYY.
WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE ME?
CLACK
CLACK

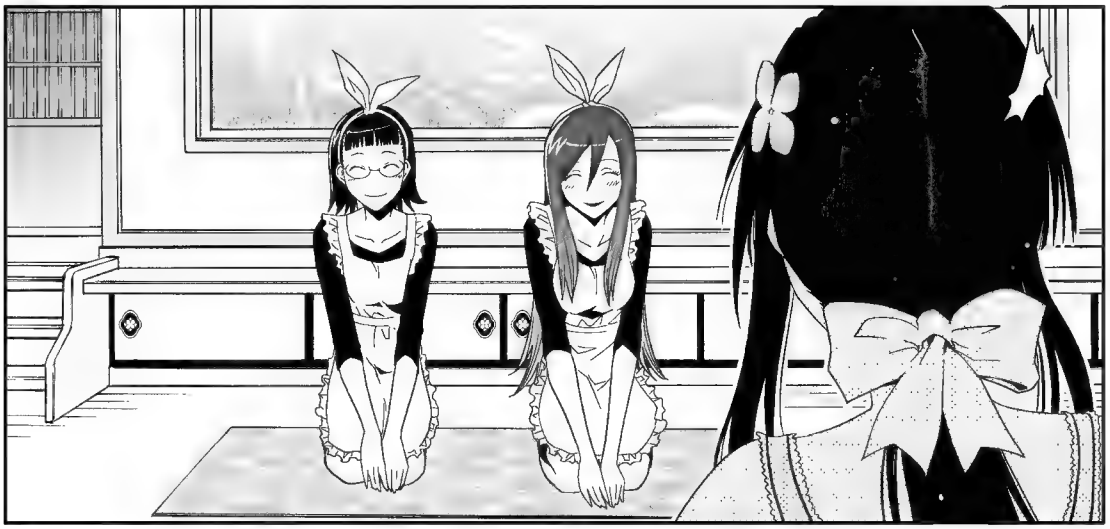
I'LL CLEAN UP LATER ...
...SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WET YOURSELF ALL YOU WANT.
GRIN
...
slide
WHAT ...?
ROOM OF INFINITY
I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO TORTURE YOU, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

WHAM
?!
THE ARMOR IS OVER HERE.
CLACK CLACK
AR-MOR ?!
Huh ?!
YOU CAN PICK WHAT-EVER YOU LIKE.
I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND IF YOU WERE BARE-HANDED ...
WAIT A SEC-OND, IS THAT...? NO WAY...!

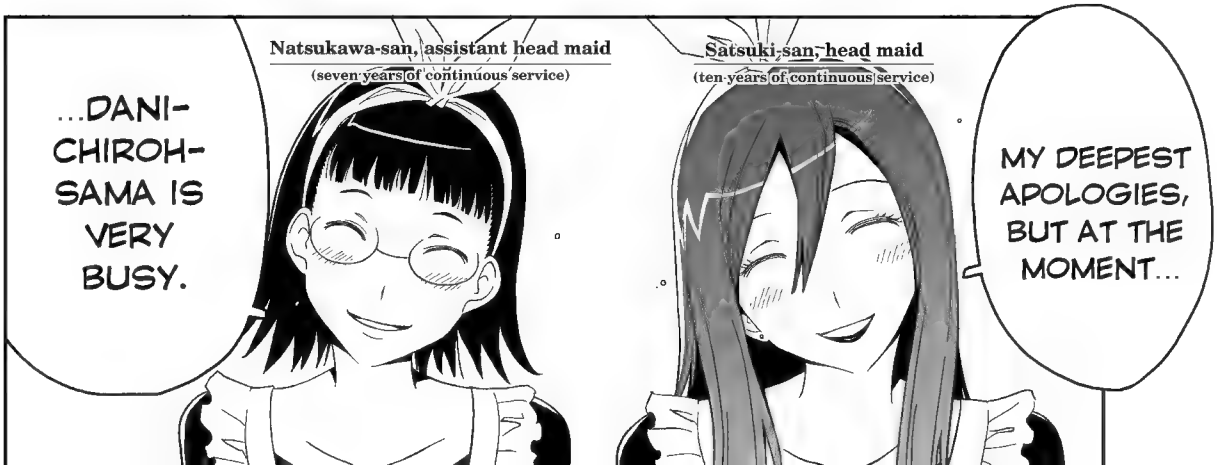
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
...I WON-DER ...
...WHICH MAN HERE IS BEST QUALIFIED TO PROTECT REA?
BUMP
BUMP
スレレ

plip
plip
Shiyoh Transit
FSHH
SSH
I GUESS THEY CAN PROBABLY PAY ME...
TAP
TAP
LET'S SETTLE THIS . . . !!
WHOOSH

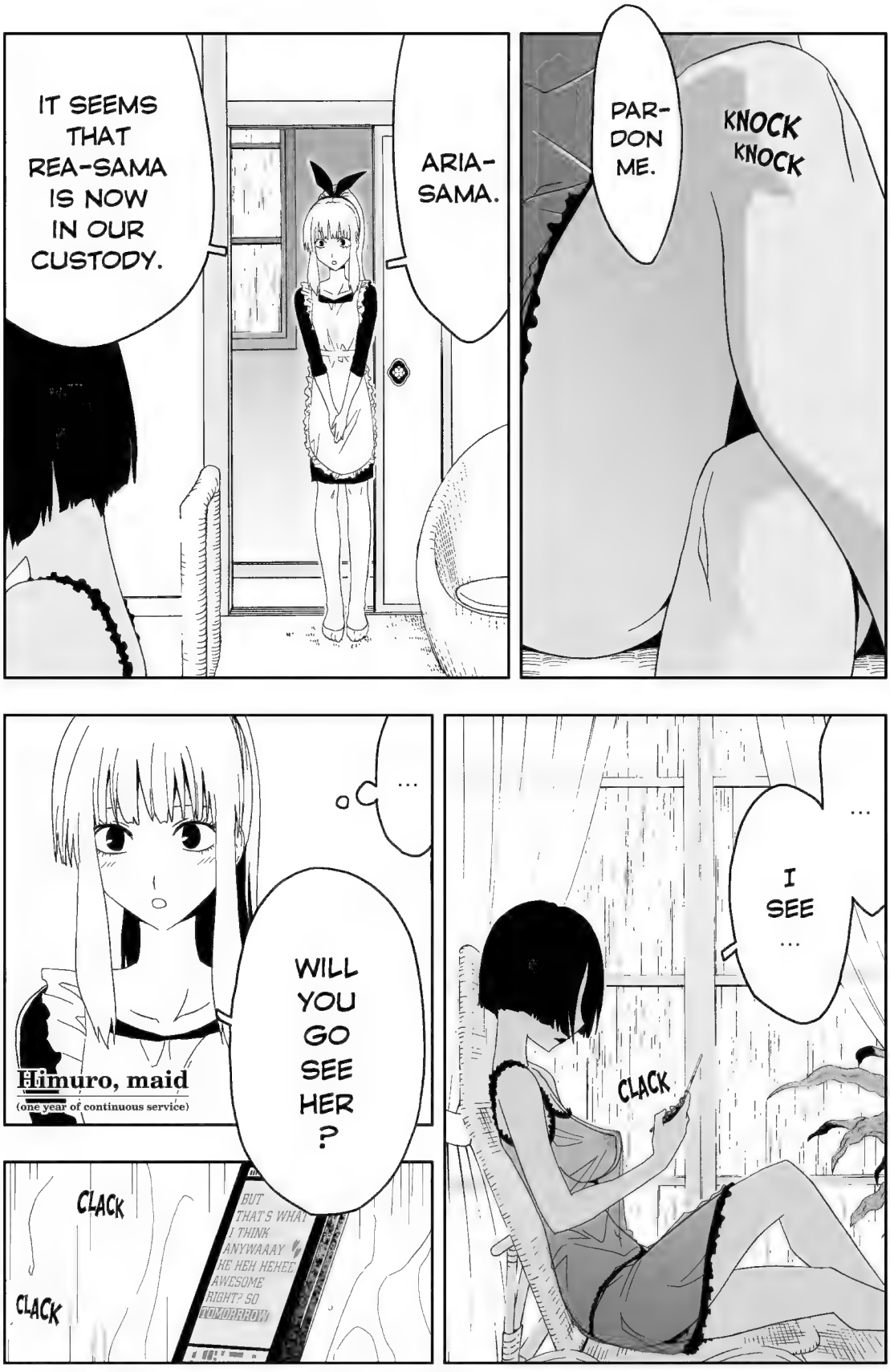
KA
WHAM



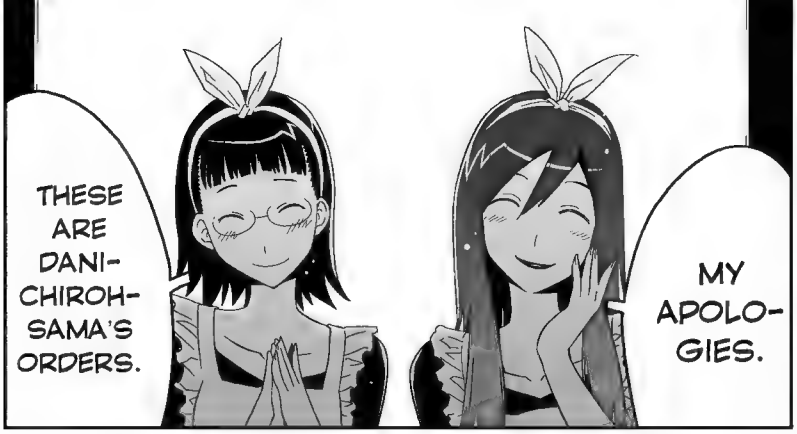
PLEASE ...
...CALL MY FATHER !!


Natsukawa-san, assistant head maid
(seven years of continuous service)
Satsuki-san, head maid
(ten years of continuous service)
...DANI-CHIROH-SAMA IS VERY BUSY.
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES, BUT AT THE MOMENT...

I'M GOING TO SEE MY FATHER !!
FURUYA-KUN IS HERE TOO, ISN'T HE ?!
WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.
WE NEED TO HAVE YOU ...
...REST HERE FOR A WHILE.
WOOSH

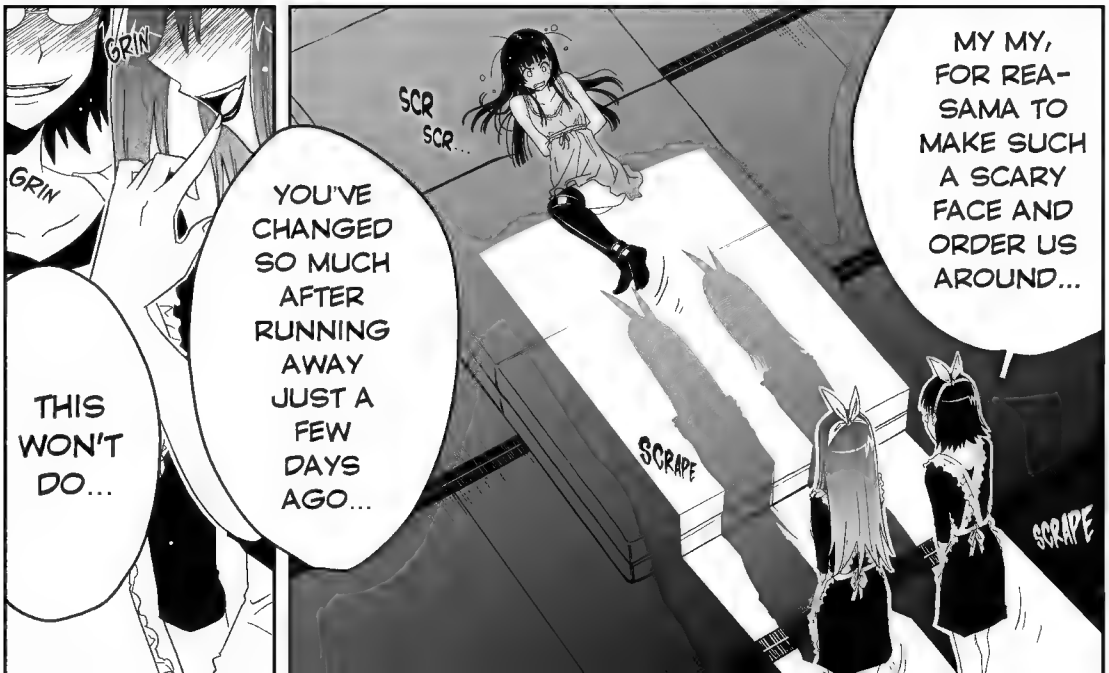

IT SEEMS THAT REA-SAMA IS NOW IN OUR CUSTODY.
ARIA-SAMA.
PAR-DON ME.
KNOCK KNOCK
...
WILL YOU GO SEE HER?
Himuro, maid
(one year of continuous service)
CLACK
CLACK
BUT THAT'S WHAT I THINK ANYWAAAY HE HEH HEHEE AWESOME RIGHT? SO TOMORROW!
...
I SEE ...
CLACK

FSSH
...THERE'S NO PARTI-CULAR NEED ...
...FOR ME TO SEE HER ANY-MORE, IS THERE?
WHAP
EEEK!


THESE ARE DANI-CHIROH-SAMA'S ORDERS.
MY APOLO-GIES.

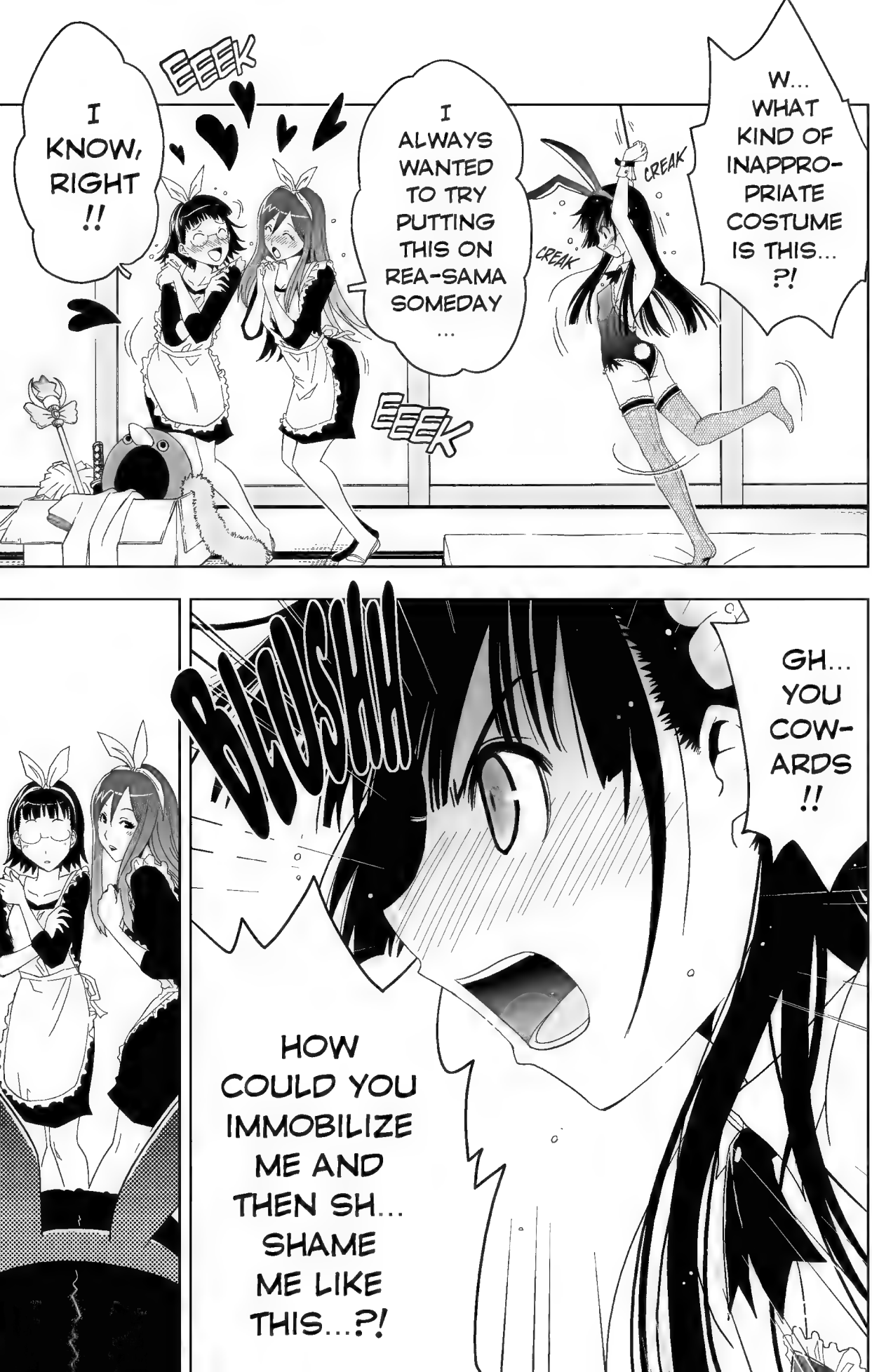
NO ...
... WHAT ARE YOU ...?!
WHY ... ARE YOU DOING THIS ...?!

WELL THEN, I HAVE ORDERS FOR YOU, TOO.
RE-LEASE ME AT ONCE.


GRIN
GRIN
THIS WON'T DO...
YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH AFTER RUNNING AWAY JUST A FEW DAYS AGO...
SCR SCR...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
MY MY, FOR REA-SAMA TO MAKE SUCH A SCARY FACE AND ORDER US AROUND...

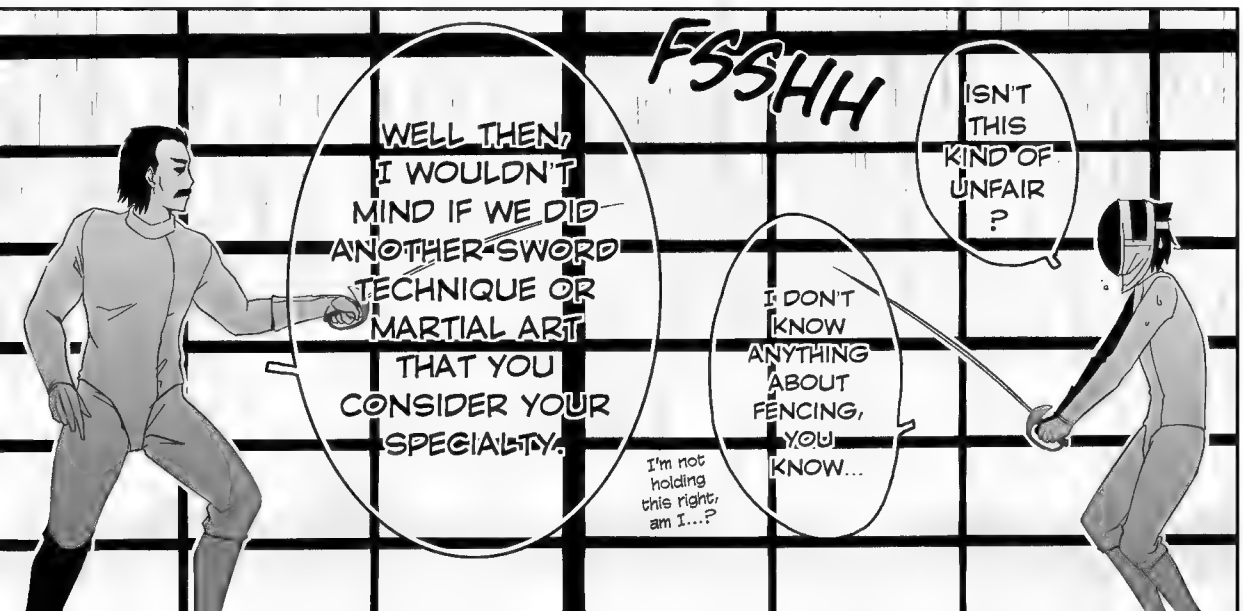
WOULDN'T IT BE OKAY FOR US TO PUNISH HER A LITTLE, AS LONG AS WE KEPT IT SECRET FROM DANICHIROH-SAMA?
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
WE PROB-ABLY WON'T HAVE A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN ...
ROOAAH
HUH ... WHAT ...
...ARE YOU PLAN-NING TO DO TO ME ?!
ROOAAH
N... NO... !

OH MYYY!
BUNNY
SO CUUUTE!!


I KNOW, RIGHT !!
EEEK
I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY PUTTING THIS ON REA-SAMA SOMEDAY ...
EEEK
CREAK
CREAK
W... WHAT KIND OF INAPPRO-PRIATE COSTUME IS THIS...?!
BLOSHH
GH... YOU COW-ARDS !!
HOW COULD YOU IMMOBILIZE ME AND THEN SH... SHAME ME LIKE THIS...?!

meow?!
EEEEEEEKKK
REA-SAMA IS CUTE WHEN SHE'S EMBAR-RASSED, TOOOO ...!!
...
WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE HER WEAR NEXT? THE NINJA GIRL? THE KIGURUMI?
Aww, but isn't this one better?
We should definitely put this one on her.
CREAK
THIS IS NO TIME FOR ME TO BE DOING THIS...
CREAK
I'M SO WORRIED ...
FURUYA-KUN...
FU-RUYA-KUU-NNN!!
CREAK
CREAK
HHHH

FSSHH
FSSHH
HMM? WHAT IS IT?
I TOLD YOU, IF YOU CAN LAND EVEN ONE BLOW ON ME...
...
...THE VICTORY WILL BE YOURS.

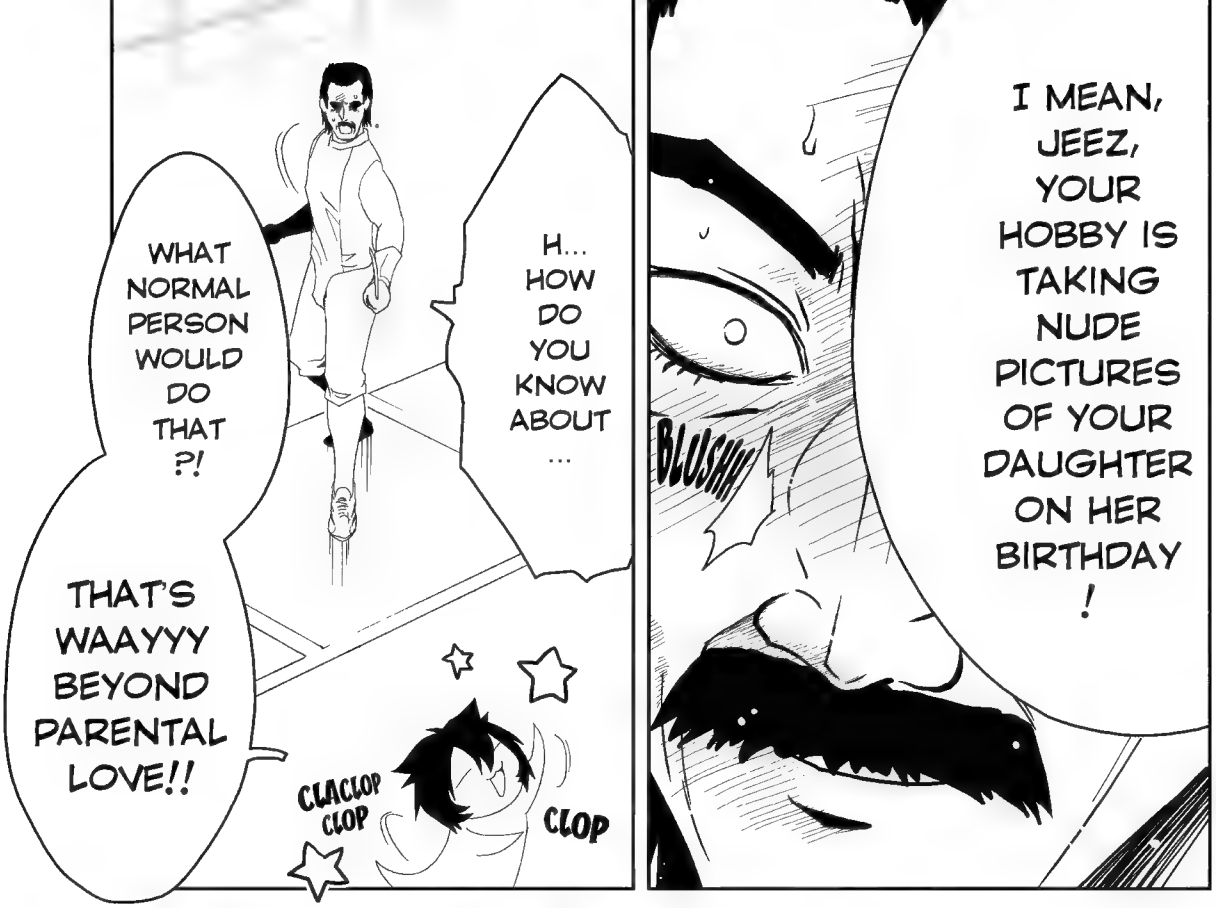

FSSHH
WELL THEN, I WOULDN'T MIND IF WE DID ANOTHER SWORD TECHNIQUE OR MARTIAL ART THAT YOU CONSIDER YOUR SPECIALTY.
I'm not holding this right, am I...?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FENCING, YOU KNOW...
ISN'T THIS KIND OF UNFAIR?

FSSHHH
I MEAN I CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT !!
WHAT? WHAT A FEEBLE MAN YOU ARE.
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LEARNED THE ART OF SELF-DEFENSE?

...HUH?
YOU DON'T EVEN GET THAT?
POP
GRRHH
SHHHH
I WONDER HOW A MAN WITHOUT THE LEAST BIT OF TALENT OR SKILL...
...COULD POSSIBLY HAVE ENTICED REA TO LEAVE?

kss
kss
...
YOU DON'T EVEN GET THAT ??
hop
hop
YOU DON'T EVEN GET THAT ?
WHAT ARE YOU... TRYING TO SAY ?
RRRMM
...IS...
RMM
WHAT I MEAN ...

YOU'RE CREEPY.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ?!
Nnyaah
"LET'S SETTLE THIS MAN TO MAN" ?
... WHAT ?!
...
YOU'RE TOO SELFISH !
IN THE FIRST PLACE, HOW CAN YOU DRAG ME HERE AND THEN SAY STUFF LIKE THAT?
...WITHOUT EVEN CONSIDERING HOW SHE FEELS?
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU THINK REA SHOULD BELONG TO THE ONE WHO WINS...


I MEAN, JEEZ, YOUR HOBBY IS TAKING NUDE PICTURES OF YOUR DAUGHTER ON HER BIRTHDAY !
BLUSH!!
H... HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ...
WHAT NORMAL PERSON WOULD DO THAT ?!
THAT'S WAAYYY BEYOND PARENTAL LOVE!!
CLACLOP CLOP
CLOP

I MEAN, ANYONE'D WANT TO GET FAR AWAY...
...FROM SUCH A CREEPY OLD MAN! NOR- MALLY.

SO...
All joking aside...
turn
...EVEN IF WE HAVE THIS DUEL...

WHAM

...FU-
RUYA.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE UNDER-ESTIMATED ME SEVERE-LY...
SSSLIDEE...
A CREA-TURE LIKE YOU ...
...CAN BE EASILY DISPOSED OF USING THE POWER OF THE SANKA FAMILY.
RIGHT...

REA
?
WHAT'S WRONG, FURUYA ?
Ruya-kun.
SSSLIDEE
YOU NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY STAB YOU, RIGHT?

GRIP
HMM
?
UNHAK!!

RM
RM
HUH...?!
RM
RM
RM
NNAGH...

WHAT IS THIS?!!
BOOOOM
LET'S DO THIS.
drip

SANKAREA ANECDOTES 3

About Rea and the story

When you take off the cover of volume one (the Japanese edition), the initial character settings are printed there, but actually that Rea was from when the story and direction of the character were already rather solidified. It took quite a while to get to that point! And so here I'd like to present to everyone, in rough form, the changes both Rea and the story went through. They're completely different, and it's rather interesting. (Heh!)

1: The very first design. At this time I was still trying to create a work along the lines of a "zombie fairytale." I do like this one as it is.

2: When I gave up the zombie fairytale and decided to set it in the modern era, I drew this without any real ideas. Anyway, I decided on black hair here.

3: Um... I was trying to make this a battle action story? (Heh.)

4: The basic plot is that due to a natural disaster, a certain city within the Tokyo region becomes a separate island. While exploring the ruins there, the characters happen to meet zombies. The female friend gets bitten. The city is soon overrun by zombies... it was a story with kind of a classic feeling. I thought, "What's the point of even writing something like this nowadays?"... and so I dropped it.

5: A girl who used to be a wild junior idol hides that fact and goes to school, but the main character finds her out... and that was the setting. Huh? What happened to the zombies?

6: Finally you can begin to see a hint of Rea... but I was concerned about how to involve the zombie aspect of the story, so I got stuck. Then, as I wrote in the prior anecdote, I finally arrived at the initial setting from Volume 1 because I went on that spontaneous trip.

9 FI...ANCÉE...

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ROOM6 ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

WH...?
WHAT IS THI-IIS?!
HE'S BEEN RUN THROUGH WITH A SABER, BUT HE CAN STILL ...
FU... RUYA-KUN ...?!
BOOOOM
LET'S DO THIS.
Two can play at this game!

HUH?
REA?
WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?
UH...
Y... YOU ...
THAT OUTFIT... A BU...
HM...?
~BUNNY OF THE DEAD~
降倫
FURURIN

WHOAWAH! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS COMBI-NATION !!
IT'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE ZOMBIE NURSE... NO, MAYBE EVEN CUTER!!
FWOOOH
NO, IT'S... THE HEAD MAID FORCED ME...
I MEAN- FURUYA-KUN, BLOOD!! YOUR BLOOD!!
... RUYA.
WAHOO
SNIFF
SPLASH
WAHOO
FURUYAAA!!
RMM
HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE ?!
RMM

OH... I WON-DER.
IT DOESN'T HURT...
... NOT EVEN A LIT-TLE.
OOZE ...

SSHHH
OR COULD IT BE...
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND EITHER...
COULD THIS EXCITEMENT HAVE GIVEN ME AN ADRENALINE RUSH?

NO WAY ...
...
BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
LICK
OOZE...
...WHEN REA KISSED... NO, BIT ME...
...?!
THAT TIME...
OWW!!
BAM
...I MUST'VE SOME-HOW..
...BEEN "INFECTED" BY REA'S TOXIN...

HUH... TOXIN ?!
MY SENSE OF PAIN IS DULLED ...
BA-BUMP
INFEC-TED ...?!
...BUT THE FACT THAT MY HEART IS STILL WORKING COULD MEAN THAT I DON'T HAVE A FATAL DOSE OF THE TOXIN IN ME, RIGHT... ?!
FWOOSH
SO I MUST BE SOMETHING LIKE A HALF-ZOMBIE... ?!
chatter
chatter
shh!
Wow, he's been stabbed!
A... ZOM... BIE... ?!
Ghh...
WOBBLE...

glance...
...
THEN
...
GRIP
GASP
...I'LL CHOP YOUR HEAD OFF!!
WHOOSH

CLACK
CLASH
BOINGGG

NOW ... STOP THIS.

FATHER ...

COOL!
THAT LAST BLOW SHOULD HAVE DECIDED THE OUT-COME.
BUT IF YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT ...
... THEN I'LL TAKE YOU ON MYSELF THIS TIME!!
Wow ...

I... ONLY WANT TO SAVE YOU...
... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, REA...?

...I JUST WANT TO HEAL YOU.
...FROM THIS MYST-ERIOUS AILMENT YOU SUFFER FROM...
IF WE SEE THE FAMOUS DOCTORS AND RESEARCHERS GATHERED THERE FROM AROUND THE WORLD...
...PER-HAPS WE CAN... NO, WE WILL DEF-INITELY FIND A TREAT-MENT ...!!
!!
LET'S MOVE TO AMERICA TOGE-THER.
I'VE ALREADY MADE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR THE VOYAGE.
GASP...

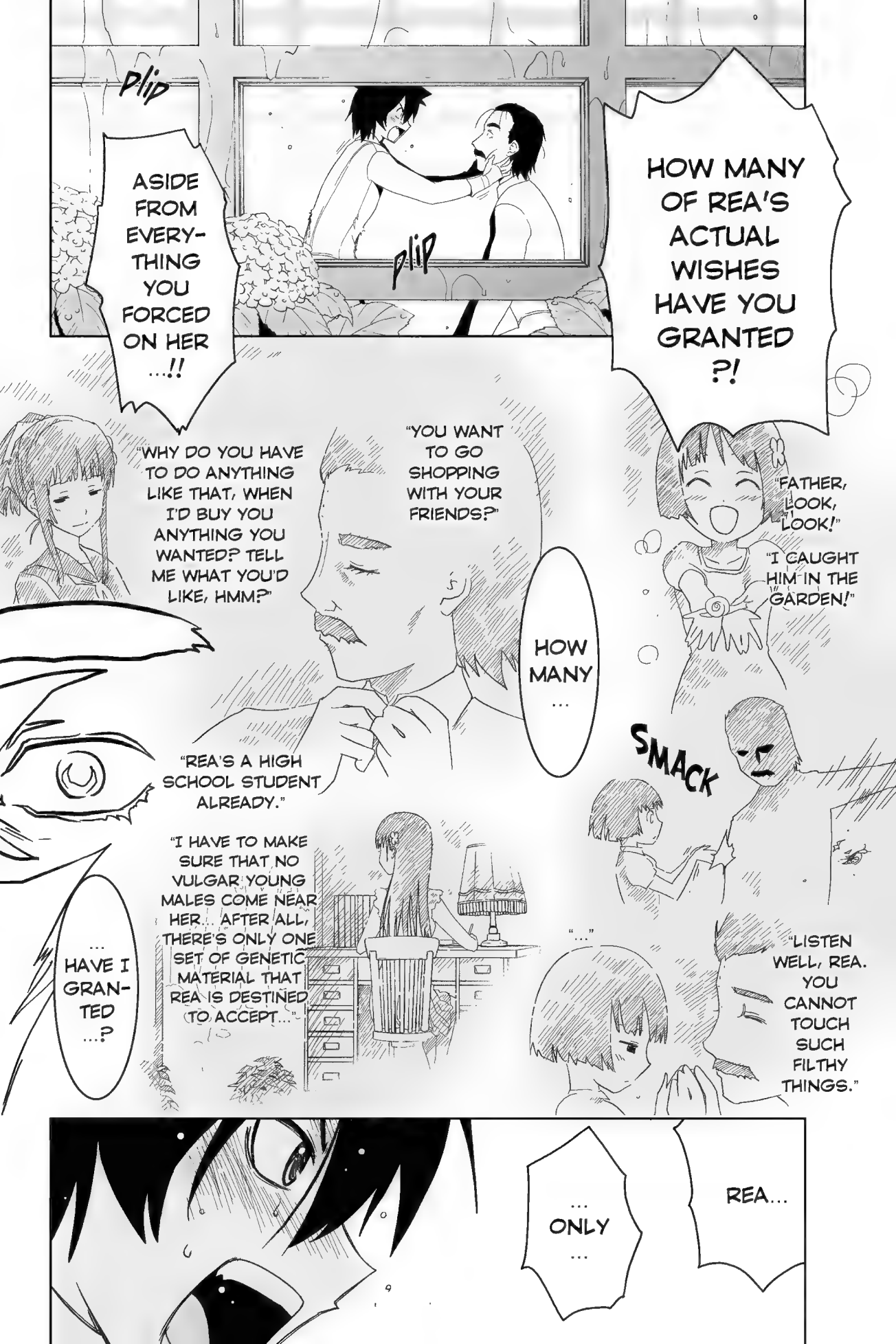
CAN THAT BOY REALLY SAVE YOU ?!
HE'S JUST ONE LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH LIMITED KNOWLEDGE AND RE-SOURCES ...
WHAT CAN HE DO ?!

NO ...
... FATHER.

I DON'T CARE...
...!!
WHAT... ARE...
...IF YOU STAY THAT WAY THEN... YOUR BODY...
...IF I DON'T GET BETTER.
IF IT'D MEAN LEAVING THIS TOWN TO CURE ME, THEN I'D RATHER STAY LIKE THIS.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A SHORT TIME...
IF I CAN STAY IN THIS TOWN WITH FURUYA -KUN...
BA-BUMP
...THEN JUST THAT...
REA...
HOW CAN YOU BE SATISFIED WITH THESE TRIFLING FREEDOMS ...
...WHEN YOU'RE SUCH A SPECIAL AND PRECIOUS BEING?
...
WHY ...?

SMA
CK
FATHER!!
DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND?!
...ISN'T SPECIAL, OR ANYTHING LIKE IT!!
WHAT REA REALLY WANTS ...
TWITCH
FATH ...


PLIP
PLIP
ASIDE FROM EVERY-THING YOU FORCED ON HER ...!!
HOW MANY OF REA'S ACTUAL WISHES HAVE YOU GRANTED ?!
"WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT, WHEN I'D BUY YOU ANYTHING YOU WANTED? TELL ME WHAT YOU'D LIKE, HMM?"
"YOU WANT TO GO SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRIENDS?"
"FATHER, LOOK, LOOK!"
"I CAUGHT HIM IN THE GARDEN!"
HOW MANY ...
"REA'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ALREADY."
SMACK
"I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT NO VULGAR YOUNG MALES COME NEAR HER... AFTER ALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE SET OF GENETIC MATERIAL THAT REA IS DESTINED TO ACCEPT..."
"..."
"LISTEN WELL, REA. YOU CANNOT TOUCH SUCH FILTHY THINGS."
... HAVE I GRAN-TED ...?
... ONLY ...
REA...

...
WANTS TO BE...
...A NOR-MAL GIRL ...!!

...
Plip
DO YOU MEAN ...
...THAT JUST FOR THAT...
plip
plipp
JUST FOR THAT ...
...YOU DIED... JUST FOR THAT ...?
...
IT'S ... MY FAULT...
...ALL MY... FAULT ...
BUT I...
...AGREE WITH ONE PART OF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.
IT'S TRUE THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN THAT I'LL BE TOO WEAK TO HANDLE...

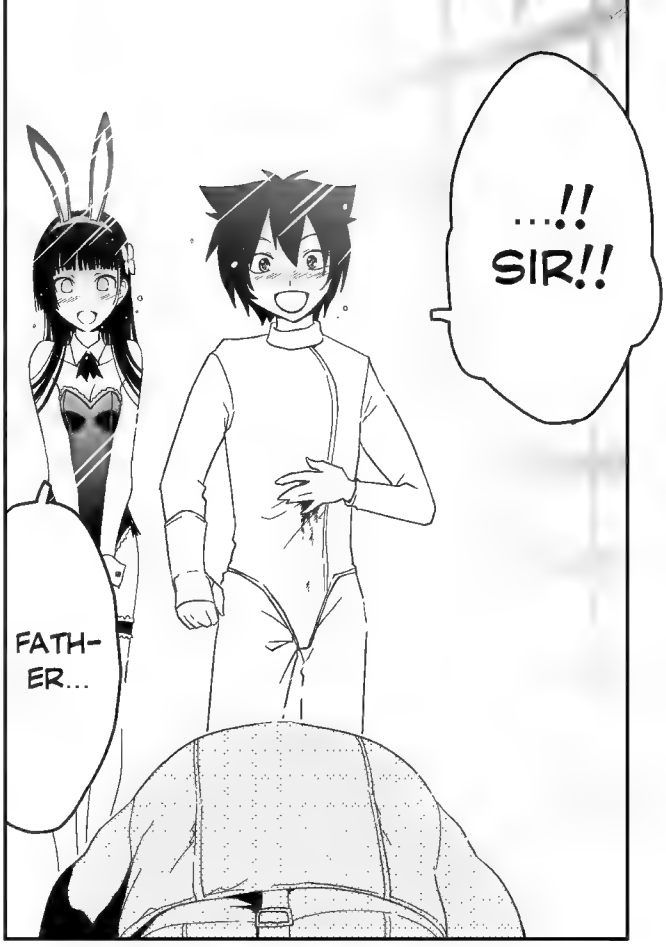
SO... WHEN THAT TIME COMES ...
...I WANT YOU TO HELP.
BECAUSE I WANT REA TO ALWAYS BE HERE ...
FURU-YA... KUN...
...!!

...YOU WON'T REGRET THIS?
YOU PRO-MISE ...
...REA.
...
NO, I WON'T ...
I LEAVE IT TO YOU.
FURUYA.
...I UNDER-STAND.

slide...
PLEASE ...
...TAKE CARE OF REA...

ITS SO EXCIT-ING !!
AAHH... A HISTORIC MOMENT !!

...DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND ...
...BUT...
Pat...


...!! SIR!!
FATH-ER...

...THAT I'LL EVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU [BEEEP] HER.
WHISPER...
huh...?
GRMMM

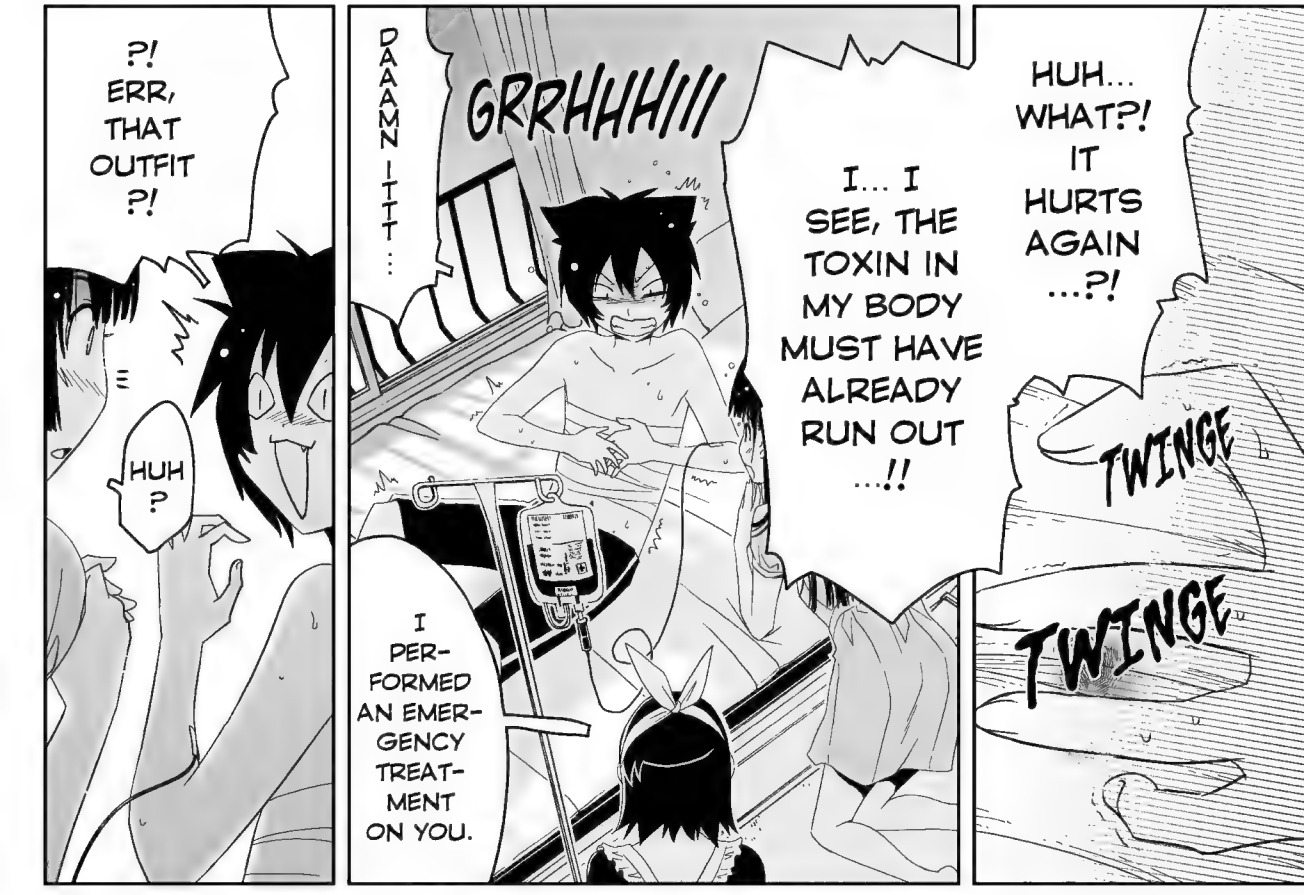
N... NO... IT... WASN'T ABOUT ANYTHING AT ALL...
nnyahh...
I MEAN, I CAN TOTALLY TELL THAT HE'S NOT ACTUALLY FORGIVING ME IN HIS HEART!
HUH? WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
TH... THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!

SPATTER
I CAN LIVE WITH REA ONCE AGAIN.
WITH THIS... AT LEAST... FOR NOW...
BUT STILL, THAT'S OKAY...
BUMP
BUMP

WOBBLE...
FURUYA-KUN!!
HUH?!
THUD...
FU-RUYA-KUN?!
BUMP
BUMP
ZOOOO...!!

...
GLIDE...
HMM ...?

THANK GOOD-NESS !!
GRAB
Nhggg!!
OWWWW!!
TWINGE


HUH... WHAT?! IT HURTS AGAIN ...?!
TWINGE
TWINGE
I... I SEE, THE TOXIN IN MY BODY MUST HAVE ALREADY RUN OUT ...!!
GRRHHH!!!
DAAAMN IT!!!...
I PER-FORMED AN EMER-GENCY TREAT-MENT ON YOU.
?! ERR, THAT OUTFIT ?!
HUH ?

Zombie nurse girl is extremely... great.
Slide
Big bro's a pushover.
...IS THERE... SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT ...?
UH... THE MAIDS ALL SAID THAT YOU'D BE HAPPY, FURUYA-KUN... SO...
BLUSH
BUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CLATTER
CHIHIROOOO!!
GAH!
YOU STUPID, STUPID, STUPID...
GRAB
Fghh!
W... WANKO?!

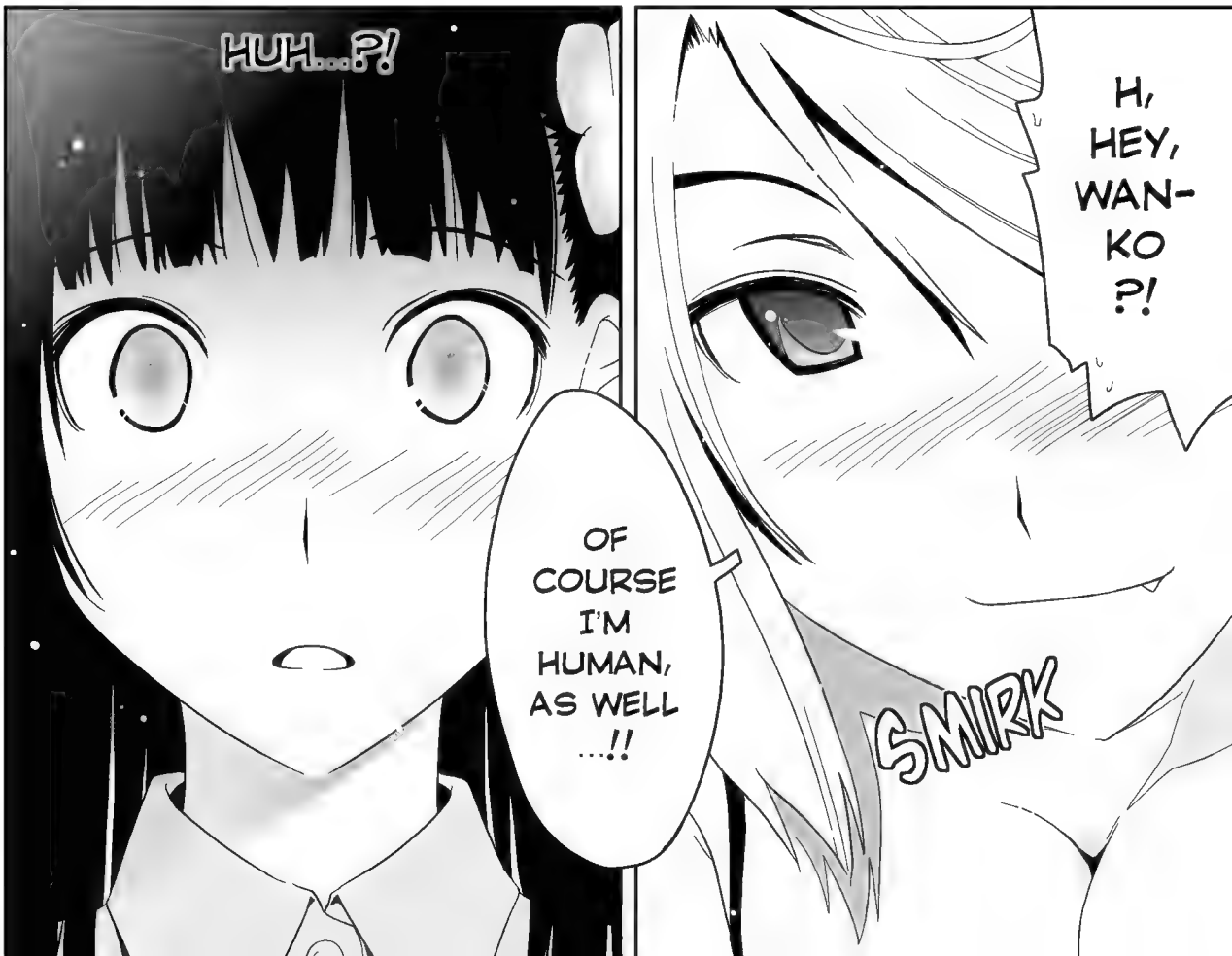
WHEN I HEARD FROM MERO-CHAN THAT YOU WERE BADLY HURT, I CAME RUNNING DOWN HERE, YOU KNOW ?!
IF YOU KNEW ABOUT MY WOUND, THEN WHY DID YOU JUMP ON ME ?!
WIGGLE

shrink
AH... I... I'M SORRY ...!!
ALL OF THIS... IS MY FAULT.
REA!! NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

AH, SORRY !
M... MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW ON EARTH DID THIS HAPPEN TO YOU... ?
NH... IT'S NOTHING.
Wanko is even more unguarded than Rea...

ZOOM
...
SANKA-SAN, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE "ZOMBIE" THAT'S LIVING WITH HIM, RIGHT...?
OH... YES.
...
glance
TWIRL
AHH...
...I STILL HADN'T GOTTEN TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE MYSELF.
PLUMP
WOAH... WHAT AN AMAZING CHEST!!
I'M SAOHJI RANKO. I'M ONE YEAR OLDER THAN YOU.
AH... NICE TO MEET YOU.
SMALL

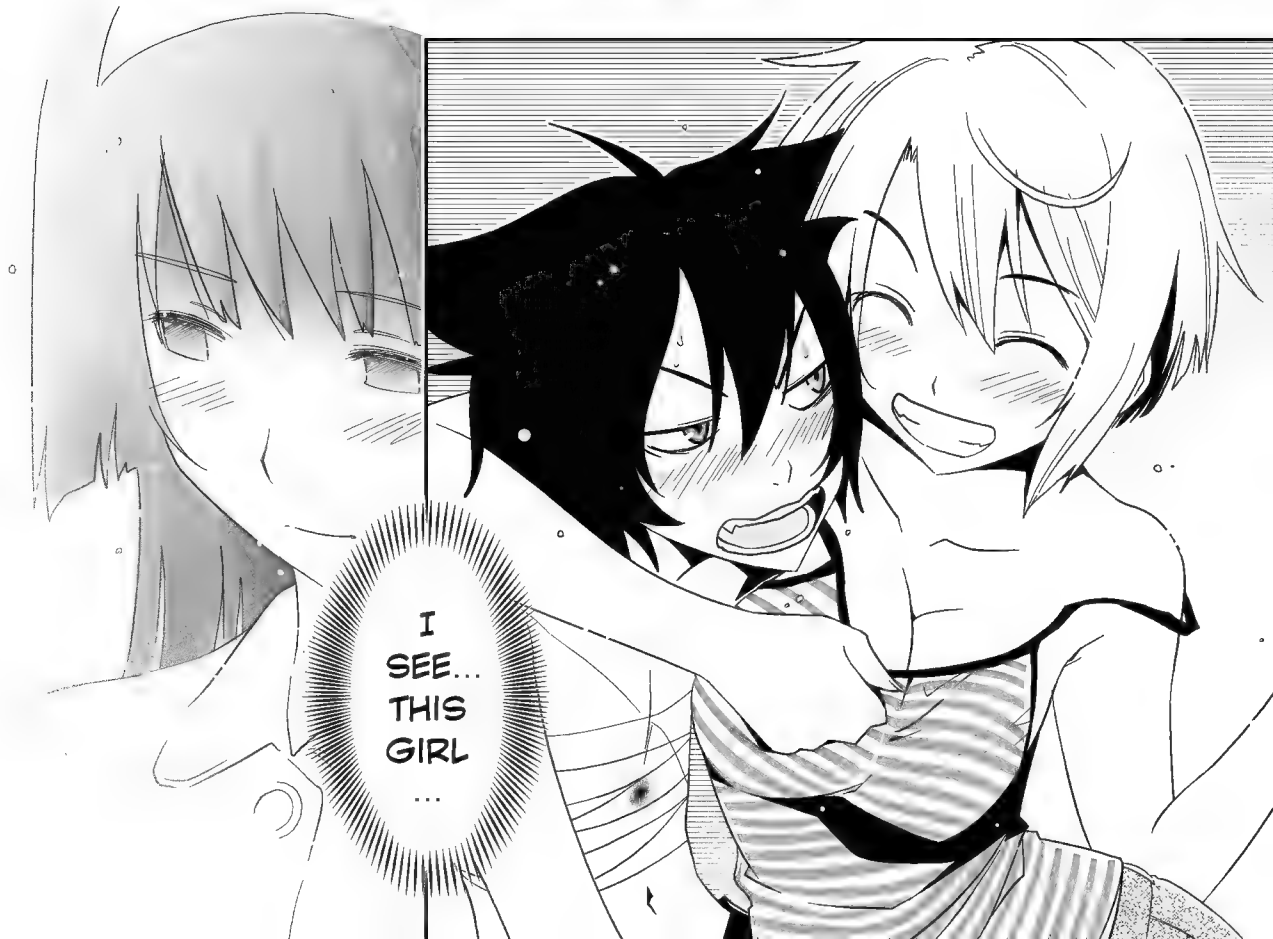
BAM
I'M CHIHIRO'S OLDER SISTER AND HIS FIANCÉE.
BWAHH?


HUH...?!
OF COURSE I'M HUMAN, AS WELL ...!!
H, HEY, WANKO ?!
SMIRK

WHOOOSH
GWAAHH!!
FIAN... CÉE....
WHEN THEY WERE IN KINDERGARTEN
WANKO, 5 YEARS OLD
Chihiro, will you be my fiancée ?
what's that?
It doesn't matter, just be it!!
CHIHIRO, 4 YEARS OLD.
Hm ....
Fine, I will !!
BUT YOU KNOW, YOU PROMISED A LONG TIME AGO.
I DON'T REMEMBER ALL THE LITTLE CHATS WE HAD BACK THEN...!
COME ON, WANKO-SAN!! I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO MAKE IRRES-PONSIBLE COMMENTS !!
HMM ?
YOU GET IT, RIGHT? THAT WAS A JOKE, JUST NOW!!

ZOOM
SHAD-DUP !!
BUT DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW? HOW SHAKEN UP CHIHIRO GOT.
Hilarious, right?
SO SORRY, SANKA-SAN.

THAT SEEMS SUSPI-CIOUS.
HUH? I WAS ACTUALLY JUST ACTING...
...
WHEN YOU CAME IN BEFORE, YOU WERE ON THE EDGE OF TEARS!!


I SEE... THIS GIRL ...

SHE LIKES... FURUYA-KUN... HUH?
VOOOOO
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ONBOARD AGAIN.
MMM

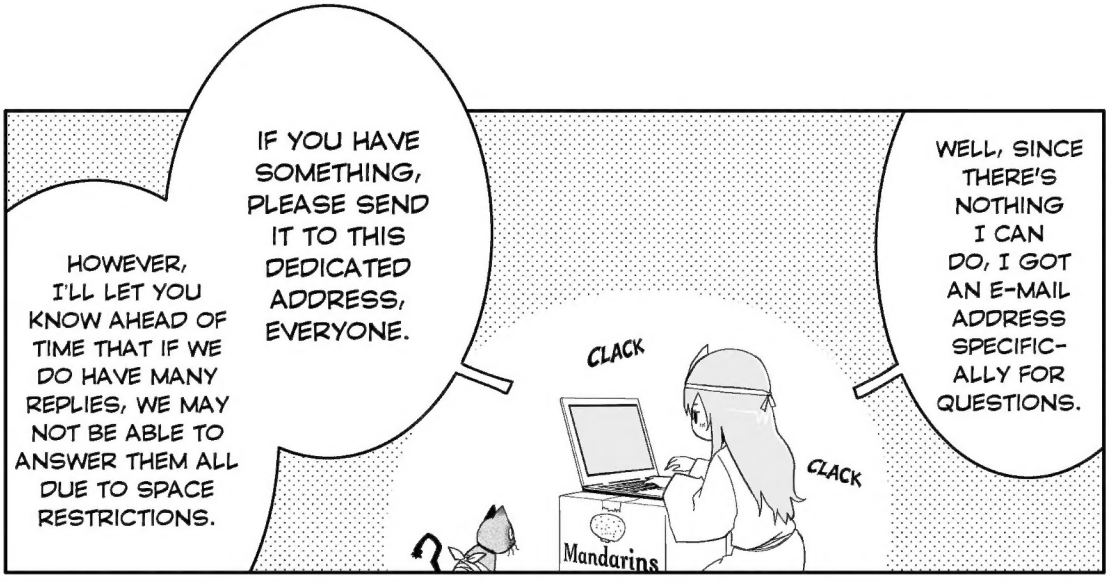
WE WILL BE LANDING AT NARITA AIRPORT SOON.
Heh heh ...
RRM
PROFE-SSOR BOYLE ...!!
RRM
whish
SO MY SHOWDOWN WITH REA'S FATHER WAS PUT ON HOLD...
AT LAST, WE MEET AGAIN ...
RRM
ｻｯ...

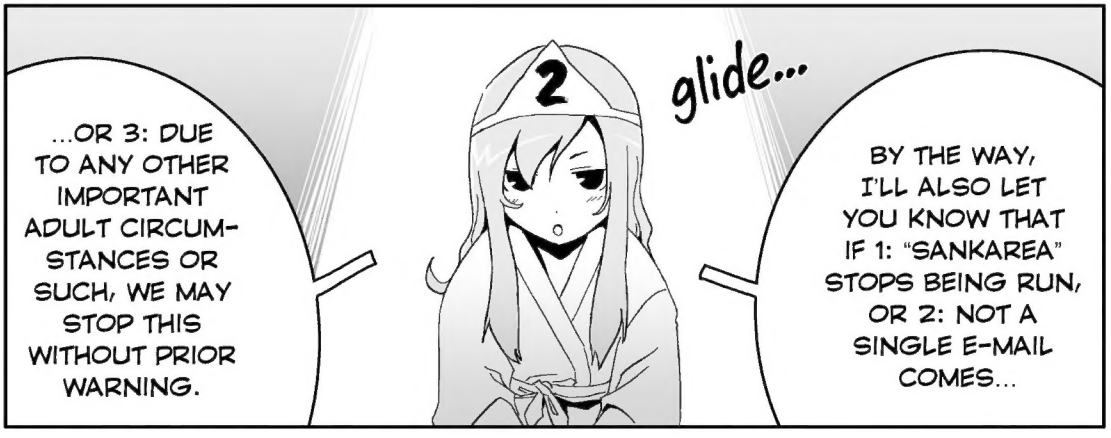
...BUT NO ONE HAD TRULY REALIZED YET...
...THAT THE DECAY OF HER BODY...
...BUMP
BA-BUMP...
BA-BUMP...
...WOULD BE JUST THE BEGINNING OF REA'S ZOMBIE PROBLEMS!

* Posters included with Japanese edition only.

BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS THAT THE AUTHOR WAS GIVEN A WARNING BY THE HEAD HONCHO OF "BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE" (THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF)...
WOOSH
WOOSHH
...BECAUSE REA'S PAPA OVERACTED FAR TOO MUCH IN VOLUME TWO... (haha)
EVEN SO, IT SEEMS THE SURVEY RESULTS WERE NOT TOO BAD...
WOOOSHHH
...AND THAT ALL THE READERS ENJOYED IT... PROBABLY.
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT WE DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF WANKO-DONO THIS TIME.
BAM
...SO THE AUTHOR DREW JUST A LITTLE SEXY SCENE OF WANKO-DONO FOR THE GRAPHIC NOVEL VERSION.
SHOCK
Huh... Is that my role in this?

FURUYA MERO WILL BE DEVOTED TO REPLYING TO OPINIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM EVERYONE ...
WHAT? STARTING NEXT TIME WE'LL HAVE A NEW FEATURE CALLED "MERO'S ZEN RIDDLES"?
FLIP
CAMPAIGN
HM ?
nnhh...
WHAT THE HELL, AUTHOR ?!
I HADN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ...
BAM


WELL, SINCE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, I GOT AN E-MAIL ADDRESS SPECIFIC-ALLY FOR QUESTIONS.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING, PLEASE SEND IT TO THIS DEDICATED ADDRESS, EVERYONE.
HOWEVER, I'LL LET YOU KNOW AHEAD OF TIME THAT IF WE DO HAVE MANY REPLIES, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER THEM ALL DUE TO SPACE RESTRICTIONS.
CLACK
CLACK
Mandarins


BY THE WAY, I'LL ALSO LET YOU KNOW THAT IF 1: "SANKAREA" STOPS BEING RUN, OR 2: NOT A SINGLE E-MAIL COMES...
2
glide...
...OR 3: DUE TO ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ADULT CIRCUM-STANCES OR SUCH, WE MAY STOP THIS WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

WELL THEN, BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET THE E-MAIL ADDRESS WRONG...
TW-TWANG TWANG TWANG TWANG TWANG
...AND LET US MEET AGAIN IN VOLUME THREE.
"Mero's Zen Riddles" e-mail address:
(Put something like "Zen Riddles" or "Questions for Mero" in the subject line.)
kodanshacomics@randomhouse.com

my type

I'd like to become friends with all kinds of creat-ures.
I'm Sanka Rea.
Hello.
CHF CHF
Oh, Mr. Hyena.
FLAP
Oh, Mr. Vulture.
CHF CHF CHF
Hello.
...tend towards a certain type...
Carrion Beetle
...I'm beginning to feel like the kinds of creatures that like me...

TRANSLATION NOTES

Honorifics: This series retains the Japanese honorifics. Here's a guide:
-san: Polite, equivalent to "Mr." or "Ms."
-sama: A term of great respect.
-kun: Used for boys or people in a lower position.
-chan: A sometimes cutesy term of endearment for girls.
-dono: A very respectful and now old-fashioned term.
-sempai: Refers to a student who entered school before you, or a colleague who entered the company before you. (The equivalent for your juniors is "kohai.")

p. 3, Heart Sutra
Sutras are Buddhist sermons or prayers. The Heart Sutra is probably the best known and most popular of all the Buddhist Sutras. Though they were originally written in Sanskrit, the version known in Japan has been transcribed into Chinese characters.

p.16, Namu Amida Butsu
A prayer involving saying the name of the Buddha, commonly used in Pure Land Buddhism. In this case, this scroll is a sample of Mero's calligraphic prowess as an elementary student.

p.20 Furuya Dohn
In some branches of Buddhism, priests and monks might have to take a vow of celibacy, but this hasn't been the case in Japan for quite some time. It's very normal for Buddhist monks to have families that live with them and work with them in their temples. Usually, this type of work is passed on from generation to generation.

p. 23 Kyoto Kaiseki
Kaiseki is the most representative type of traditional Japanese haute cuisine. It's extremely seasonal and local in choice of ingredients and the order in which guests are presented with the small plates of food is exceptionally structured. Kyoto is the region most typically associated with this type of cooking, and it seems Ranko's family runs a store that specializes in it.

p. 90, Meikyou Shisui
The Japanese version of a Chinese saying that means "A mind as serene as a polished mirror." It's often seen as calligraphy in these types of martial arts practice halls in movies and comics.

p. 93 Juon
Like the movie of the same name, the word "Juon" basically means "grudge," but only in the sense that a spirit or ghost who died a wrongful death might begrudge the living.

p. 100 Ran ran pi!
This is probably a reference to a Japanese McDonald's ad campaign in which Ronald McDonald says the nonsense phrase, "ran ran ruu!" Like most viral videos, this one's a bit tough to explain, so just punch "ran ran ruu" into YouTube.

p. 136 Kigurumi
A kigurumi (literally "clothing stuffed animal") is a full-body costume like a mascot costume. Pajama-style kigurumi became popular among some fans of Japanese street fashion around a decade ago.

p. 151 Fururin
Japanese movies often have a stamp on them that says "Eirin," short for "Eizou Rinri Kikou," or "Film Ethics Organization." This is the ratings board that determines who a film is appropriate for based on content. Having "Furu" replace "Ei" makes it sound like the "Furuya Ethics Organization," Furuya's very own (fictional) film content ratings board!

p. 186 Twang!
Here, Mero's dressed up like a ghost (because she likes to dress like a ghost…) and imitating a traditional Japanese storyteller, who was usually accompanied by the sound of a shamisen, a three-stringed Japanese banjo-like instrument. That's what is playing Mero on here.

Sankarea: Undying Love volume 2 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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